

EXHIBIT F

Guidance for Industry Drug-Induced Liver Injury: Premarketing Clinical Evaluation

DRAFT GUIDANCE

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Guidance for Industry¹

Drug-Induced Liver Injury:

Premarketing Clinical Evaluation

This draft guidance, when finalized, will represent the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) current thinking on this topic. It does not create or confer any rights for or on any person and does not operate to bind FDA or the public. You can use an alternative approach if the approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations. If you want to discuss an alternative approach, contact the FDA staff responsible for implementing this guidance. If you cannot identify the appropriate FDA staff, call the appropriate number listed on the title page of this guidance.

I. INTRODUCTION

This guidance is intended to assist the pharmaceutical industry and other investigators who are conducting new drug development in assessing the potential for a drug² to cause *severe* liver injury (i.e., fatal, or requiring liver transplantation). In particular, the guidance addresses how laboratory measurements that signal the potential for such drug-induced liver injury (DILI) can be obtained and evaluated during drug development. This evaluation is important because most drugs that cause severe DILI do so infrequently; typical drug development databases with up to a few thousand subjects exposed to a new drug will not show any cases. Databases do, however, often show evidence of a drug's *potential* for severe DILI if the clinical and laboratory data are properly evaluated for evidence of lesser injury that may not be severe, but may predict the ability to cause more severe injuries. This guidance describes an approach that can be used to distinguish signals of DILI that identify drugs likely to cause significant hepatotoxicity from signals that do not suggest such a potential. This guidance does not address issues of preclinical evaluation for potential DILI, nor the detection and assessment of DILI after drug approval and marketing.

FDA's guidance documents, including this guidance, do not establish legally enforceable responsibilities. Instead, guidances describe the Agency's current thinking on a topic and should be viewed only as recommendations, unless specific regulatory or statutory requirements are

¹ This guidance has been prepared by the Division of Gastroenterology Products, the Office of Medical Policy, and the Office of Surveillance and Epidemiology in the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) in cooperation with the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

² This guidance uses the term *drug* or *product* to refer to all products, except whole blood and blood components, regulated by CDER and CBER, including vaccines, and uses the term *approval* to refer to both drug approval and biologic licensure.

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cited. The use of the word *should* in Agency guidances means that something is suggested or recommended, but not required.

II. BACKGROUND: HEPATOTOXICITY

Hepatotoxicity has been the most frequent single cause of safety-related drug marketing withdrawals for the past 50 years (e.g., iproniazid), continuing to the present (e.g., ticrynafen, benoxaprofen, bromfenac, troglitazone, nefazodone). Hepatotoxicity discovered after approval for marketing also has limited the use of many drugs, including isoniazid, labetalol, trovafloxacin, tolcapone, and felbamate (Temple 2001). Several drugs have not been approved in the United States because European marketing experience revealed their hepatotoxicity (e.g., ibufenac, perhexiline, alpidem). Finally, some drugs were not approved in the United States because premarketing experience provided evidence of potential toxicity (e.g., dilevalol, tasosartan, ximelagatran). Although most significant hepatotoxins have caused predominantly hepatocellular injury, indicated by leakage of aminotransferase (AT) enzymes from injured liver cells without prominent evidence of hepatobiliary obstruction, the pattern of injury can vary. Many drugs cause cholestasis, but in general this condition is reversible after administration of the offending drug has stopped. Cholestatic injuries are less likely to lead to death or transplant, although there have been exceptions.

Drugs cause liver injuries by many different mechanisms. These injuries resemble almost all known liver diseases and there are no pathognomonic findings, even upon liver biopsy, that make diagnosis of DILI certain. Therefore, when possible DILI is suspected, it is essential to gather additional clinical and laboratory information, to observe the time course of the injury, and to seek alternative causes of the liver injury, such as acute viral hepatitis A, B, or C, autoimmune or alcoholic hepatitis, biliary tract disorders, and circulatory problems of hypotension or right heart congestive failure that may cause ischemic or hypoxic hepatopathy. It is also prudent to assess the subject for previously existing liver disease, such as chronic hepatitis C or nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), that may or may not have been recognized before exposure to the experimental drug.

Only the most overt hepatotoxins can be expected to show cases of severe DILI in the 1,000 to 3,000 subjects typically studied and described in a new drug application (NDA). Overtly hepatotoxic agents (e.g., carbon tetrachloride, chloroform, methylene chloride) are toxic to anyone receiving a large enough dose, and drugs that cause such predictable and dose-related injury generally are discovered and rejected in preclinical testing. More difficult to detect is toxicity that is not predictable or clearly dose-related, but seems to depend on individual susceptibilities that have, to date, not been characterized. Most of the drugs withdrawn from the market for hepatotoxicity have had rates of death or transplantation in the range of ≤ 1 per 10,000, so that a single case of such an event would not be reliably found even if several thousand subjects were studied. Cases of severe DILI have rarely been seen in drug development programs of significantly hepatotoxic drugs.

What are regularly seen during drug development are mild liver injuries, often laboratory signals without any symptoms. The problem is that both drugs capable of severe DILI and drugs that

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have a low potential for causing severe injury (e.g., aspirin, tacrine, heparin, hydroxyl-methylglutaryl coenzyme A (HMG-CoA) reductase inhibitors (*statins*)) can generate these types of signals. Therefore, an approach is needed that can distinguish drugs likely to cause severe DILI from drugs unlikely to do so.

In general, the type of liver injury that leads to severe DILI is a predominantly hepatocellular injury. Hepatocellular injury is indicated by rises in serum AT activities reflecting release of alanine or aspartate aminotransferase (ALT or AST) from injured liver cells. The ability to cause some hepatocellular injury, however, is not a reliable predictor of a drug's potential for severe DILI. Many drugs that cause transient rises in serum AT activity do not cause progressive or severe DILI, even if drug administration is continued. It is only those drugs that cause hepatocellular injury extensive enough to affect the liver's functional ability to clear bilirubin from the plasma or to synthesize prothrombin and other coagulation factors that cause severe DILI. It is important to identify those drugs as rapidly as possible.

The drugs that have caused severe DILI in humans have not shown clear hepatotoxicity in animals, generally have not shown dose-related toxicity, and, as noted, generally have caused low rates of severe injury in humans (1 in 5,000 to 10,000 or less). These reactions thus appear to reflect host factors and individual susceptibility. Consequently, they have been termed *idiosyncratic*, meaning dependent upon the individual person's particular constitution. Whether they are the result of genetic or acquired differences has not yet been established, and to date no genetic, metabolic, or other characteristic has been found to predict severe DILI in an individual.

Some severe DILI examples have been different from the more commonly seen hepatocellular idiosyncratic type. Perhexiline, an anti-anginal drug marketed in Europe, produced toxicity within months that had the histological appearance of alcoholic cirrhosis (Pessayre and Biachara et al. 1979). Fialuridine caused modest acute liver injury, but most strikingly led to severe metabolic acidosis and multiorgan failure as mitochondrial oxidative capacity was obliterated over a period of months (Kleiner and Gaffey et al. 1997; Semino-Mora and Leon-Monzon et al. 1997). Valproic acid causes hyperammonemic encephalopathy even without notable rises in serum AT activities. Benoxaprofen (Oralflex) induced intrahepatic cholestasis that over many months led to significant, sometimes fatal, liver injury, especially in elderly patients (Taggart and Alderdice 1982).

Retrospective evaluation of earlier experiences, augmented by recent experience, lead us to believe that appropriate testing and analysis in premarketing studies may improve the early detection of drugs that can cause severe hepatocellular injury.

III. SIGNALS OF DILI AND HY'S LAW

Because hepatocellular injury (AT elevations) is caused both by drugs that rarely, if ever, cause severe DILI (e.g., aspirin, HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors, heparin) and drugs that do cause such injury, evidence of hepatocellular injury is a necessary, but not sufficient, indicator of a potential for severe DILI. The frequency of AT elevation is not a good indicator either, as drugs such as tacrine (not a cause of severe DILI) can cause AT elevations in as many as 50 percent of

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patients. The degree of AT elevation may be a better indicator of potential for severe DILI, but the most specific indicator is evidence of altered liver function.

As noted, a typical NDA or BLA database usually will not show any cases of severe DILI, even for a drug that can cause such injury. Many drugs, however, including both significant hepatotoxins and drugs that do not cause severe liver injury, cause laboratory evidence of hepatic injury, with leakage of liver enzymes and the appearance in blood of elevations in serum AT to levels of 3-, 5-, and greater times the upper limits of normal (ULN). Generally, ALT is considered a more liver-specific aminotransferase than AST, although it also occurs in many tissues (Green and Flamm 2002). The finding of a higher rate of such elevations in drug-treated subjects than in a control group is a sensitive signal of a potential to cause severe DILI, but it is not a very specific signal. A more specific signal of such potential is a higher rate of more marked peak AT elevations (10x-, 15xULN), with cases of increases >1,000 U/L causing increased concern. The single clearest (most specific) predictor found to date of a drug's potential for severe hepatotoxicity, however, is evidence of reduced overall liver function in one or more subjects, manifested by increased serum total bilirubin (TBL), in conjunction with AT elevation, not explained by any other cause, together with an increased rate of AT elevation in the overall study population compared to control.

Recognition of the importance of altered liver function, in addition to liver injury, began with Hyman Zimmerman's observation that drug-induced hepatocellular injury (i.e., aminotransferase elevation) accompanied by jaundice had a poor prognosis, with a 10 to 50 percent mortality from acute liver failure (in pretransplantation days) (Zimmerman 1978, 1999). The reason for this now seems clear. The liver has a large excess of bilirubin-excreting capacity; injury to hepatocytes sufficient to cause jaundice or near jaundice (i.e., a bilirubin >2 mg/dL) represents an extent of damage so great that recovery may not be possible in some patients. Zimmerman's observation that hepatocellular injury sufficient to impair bilirubin excretion was ominous has been used at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) over the years to identify drugs likely to be capable of causing severe liver injury, as distinct from drugs that cause lesser hepatocellular injury (i.e., AT elevation without bilirubin elevation) but are not as likely to cause severe injury (e.g., aspirin, tacrine, heparin). The observation of the critical importance of altered liver function has been referred to informally as *Hy's Law* (Temple 2001; Reuben 2004).

Briefly, Hy's Law cases have the following three components:

1. The drug causes hepatocellular injury, generally shown by more frequent 3-fold or greater elevations above the ULN of ALT or AST than the (nonhepatotoxic) control agent or placebo.
2. Among subjects showing such AT elevations, often with ATs much greater than 3xULN, some subjects also show elevation of serum TBL to >2xULN, without initial findings of cholestasis (serum alkaline phosphatase (ALP) activity >2xULN).
3. No other reason can be found to explain the combination of increased AT and TBL, such as viral hepatitis A, B, or C, preexisting or acute liver disease, or another drug capable of causing the observed injury.

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Finding one Hy's Law case in clinical trials is ominous; finding two is highly predictive of a potential for severe DILI. Clinical trials of the beta blocker dilevalol (enantiomer of labetalol, a diastereoisomeric mixture), showed two such cases in about 1,000 exposures. The drug was not approved in the United States, and examination of a postmarketing study in Portugal revealed fatal liver injury. Clinical trials of tasosartan, an angiotensin II blocking agent, showed a single Hy's Law case. The manufacturer was asked to do a large-scale safety study before the drug could be approved. The study was never conducted.

As a rule of thumb, based on Zimmerman's original estimate of 10 to 50 percent mortality associated with hepatocellular injury sufficient to impair the liver bilirubin excretory function, severe DILI can be estimated to occur at a rate of at least one-tenth the rate of so-called Hy's Law cases (Temple 2001). This observation was recently confirmed in large studies of DILI in Spain (Andrade and Lucena et al. 2005) and in Sweden (Björnsson and Olsson 2005) in which approximately 10 percent of subjects with hyperbilirubinemia or jaundice died or needed liver transplants.

Recent examples of some drugs causing idiosyncratic hepatotoxicity (e.g., bromfenac, troglitazone, ximelagatran) further illustrate the predictive value of Hy's Law, where findings during clinical trials were noted and severe DILI occurred after marketing. These examples are described in detail in Appendix A.

Past experience, including the three examples, shows that there is a set of laboratory abnormality signals that have the ability to predict a potential for severe DILI with reasonable sensitivity and specificity in a database of several thousand subjects. Although it is not yet possible to provide precise specificity and sensitivity estimates for the various signals, guidance can be provided on use of these major indicators of a potential for severe DILI, as follows:

- **An excess of AT elevations to >3xULN compared to a control group**

AT elevations to >3xULN are relatively common and may be seen in all groups, but an excess of these elevations compared to a control group is nearly always seen for drugs that ultimately prove severely hepatotoxic at relatively high rates (1/10,000). Therefore, the sensitivity of an excess of >3xULN AT elevations as a predictor of a potential for severe DILI is high. But many drugs show this signal without conferring a risk of severe injury (e.g., tacrine, statins, aspirin, heparin), indicating low specificity for an excess of AT elevations alone. There are no good data analyses at this time on how great this excess should be compared to control (e.g., 2-fold, 3-fold) to suggest an increased risk of DILI.

- **Marked elevations of AT to 5x-, 10x-, or 20xULN in smaller numbers of subjects in the test drug group and not seen (or seen much less frequently) in the control group**

Virtually all severely hepatotoxic drugs show such cases, indicating high sensitivity for predicting severe DILI, but, again, some drugs such as tacrine and others that are not severely hepatotoxic also can cause AT elevations to this degree, so that specificity of this finding is suboptimal.

- One or more cases of elevated bilirubin to $>2 \times \text{ULN}$ in a setting of pure hepatocellular injury (no evidence of obstruction, such as elevated ALP in gall bladder or bile duct disease, malignancy), with no other explanation (viral hepatitis, alcoholic or autoimmune hepatitis, other hepatotoxic drugs), accompanied by an overall increased rate of AT elevations $>3 \times \text{ULN}$ in the test drug group compared to placebo

The sensitivity of this observation appears high for any given rate of severe DILI if enough people are exposed to the drug. Thus, if the true incidence of severe injury is $1/10,000$, and the rate of Hy's Law cases is $1/1,000$, about 3,000 subjects (*Rule of 3*) would be needed to have a 95 percent probability of observing a Hy's Law case in the treated population (Rosner 1995). The sensitivity of this finding appears very high if at least two cases are seen (e.g., dilevalol, bromfenac, troglitazone, ximelagatran). We are not aware of false positive Hy's Law findings. Therefore, the finding of two Hy's Law cases, and probably even one, is a strong predictor of a significant rate of severe liver injury. Failure to find a case, however, does not imply that a drug with AT elevations is free of a risk of severe DILI. The degree of assurance depends on the population exposed for a long enough time and on the rate of severe DILI that would be of interest.

The implications of these three findings may be different in patients with existing liver disease such as fatty liver disease, NASH, or chronic hepatitis C or B, with bilirubin metabolism abnormalities (Gilbert's syndrome), and in patients on drugs that treat liver disease or that inhibit bilirubin glucuronidation, such as indinavir or atazanavir (Zhang and Chando et al. 2005).

IV. CLINICAL EVALUATION OF DILI

A. General Considerations

For most drugs in development that reach phase 3 testing, the chances of encountering severe DILI are low. An increased frequency of mild hepatotoxicity (AT elevations) in early trials usually results in heightened screening to detect and evaluate liver injury during phase 3 testing. It is critical, however, to determine whether mild hepatotoxicity reflects a potential for severe DILI or reflects a capacity for only limited injury. To make this distinction, it is essential to detect any cases of more severe injury and to examine such cases closely, observing the course and outcome of the injury, and seeking additional information that might identify other causes. The following general recommendations for evaluating and monitoring potential drug-induced hepatotoxicity may not be suitable for all situations and should be modified for special populations, such as people with preexisting liver disease or malignancies, and in light of accumulating data. In addition, clinical trials of cellular and gene therapies and of vaccines pose specific challenges related to trial size and design, persistence of vectors, and tissue specificity. Applicants are encouraged to discuss these issues with the review division.

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1. Patients with Liver Abnormalities or Disease

Patients are sometimes excluded from clinical trials because of baseline liver test abnormalities or a history of liver disease, but there is no well-established reason to do this, except perhaps to avoid confusion between the previous disease and an effect of the test drug. These patients generally should be included in at least the phase 3 trials because they are likely to be treated with the drug if it is marketed. Preexisting liver disease is not known to make patients more susceptible to DILI (Zimmerman 1978, 1999), but it may be that a diminished *liver reserve* or the ability to recover could make the consequences of injury worse, making it appear that such patients were more susceptible to severe DILI. If the drug is intended to be prescribed or marketed to such patients after approval, they should be studied during controlled trials. It may be prudent, however, to first determine if DILI occurs in people with previously normal livers, before studying patients with well-characterized and stable chronic liver disease.

2. Detection of DILI

In general, early studies of a drug in study subjects with presumably normal liver function should involve obtaining liver tests every 2 to 4 weeks, at least for a few months. It is uncertain whether early symptoms (e.g., anorexia, nausea, fatigue, right upper abdominal discomfort, vomiting) precede or follow the first laboratory signs of hepatic injury (rising ALT, AST, or ALP) and the pattern of clinical and laboratory changes may vary with different drugs and recipients. In most cases, however, the first evidence of a problem is elevated AT or ALP. In longer trials, if there is no sign of liver injury after a reasonable length of exposure (e.g., 3 months), the monitoring interval can be increased to once every 2 to 3 months. Later trials also can use less frequent liver chemistry monitoring if there is no indication of hepatotoxicity.

If symptoms compatible with DILI precede knowledge of serum abnormalities, liver enzyme measurements should be made immediately, regardless of when the next visit or monitoring interval is scheduled. In some cases, symptoms may be an early sign of injury. Reliance on early symptoms, rather than serum enzyme monitoring, has become the standard for monitoring isoniazid therapy for prophylaxis of tuberculosis and seems to prevent severe liver injury if acted upon promptly (Nolan and Goldberg et al. 1999). Attention to symptoms does not supplant routine periodic assessment of AT, TBL, and ALP in trials of investigational drugs.

3. Confirmation

In general, an increase of serum AT to >3xULN should be followed by repeat testing within 48 to 72 hours of all four of the usual serum measures (ALT, AST, ALP, and TBL) to confirm the abnormalities and to determine if they are increasing or decreasing. There also should be inquiry about symptoms. Serum AT may rise and fall quite rapidly, and waiting a week or two before obtaining confirmation of elevations may lead to a false conclusion that the initially observed abnormality was spurious, or, of greater concern, to severe worsening if the initial abnormality was the herald of a severe reaction to follow. The need for prompt repeat testing is especially great if AT is much greater than 3xULN or TBL is greater than 2xULN. For outpatient studies, or studies in which subjects are far away from the study site, it may be difficult for the subjects to return to the study site promptly. In this case, the subjects should be retested locally, but

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normal laboratory ranges should be recorded, results should be made available to study investigators immediately, and the data should be included in the case reports. If symptoms persist or repeat testing shows AT >3xULN for the subjects with normal baseline measures or 2-fold increases above baseline values for subjects with elevated values before drug exposure, it is appropriate to initiate close observation to determine whether the abnormalities are improving or worsening.

4. Close Observation

Close observation is defined as follows:

- Repeating liver tests two or three times weekly. Frequency of retesting can decrease to once a week or less if abnormalities stabilize or study drug has been discontinued and subject is asymptomatic.
- Obtaining a more detailed history of symptoms and prior or concurrent diseases.
- Obtaining a history of concomitant drug use (including nonprescription medications, herbal and dietary supplement preparations), alcohol use, recreational drug use, and special diets.
- Obtaining a history of exposure to environmental chemical agents.
- Obtaining additional tests to evaluate liver function, as appropriate (e.g., International Normalized Ratio (INR)).
- Considering gastroenterology or hepatology consultation.

It is critical to initiate close observation immediately upon detection and confirmation of early signals of possible DILI, and not to wait until the next scheduled visit or monitoring interval. A threshold of a greater than 3xULN aminotransferase level is reasonable, as lesser elevations are common and nonspecific. If additional testing is done, beyond that specified in the study protocol, it is important that the subject's information be added to the case report forms or database.

5. Decision to Stop Drug Administration

It has been observed that *dechallenge* (stopping drug administration) does not always, or even usually, result in immediate improvement in abnormal lab values. Abnormal test values and symptoms may progress for several days or even weeks after discontinuation of the drug that caused the abnormality. For example, rising TBL usually follows serum AT increases by a few days to weeks. The primary goal of close observation is to determine as quickly as possible whether observed abnormal findings are transient and will resolve spontaneously or are progressive. For most DILI, no specific antidotes are available (except N-acetylcysteine for acute acetaminophen overdose if given promptly, and, possibly, intravenous carnitine for valproic acid hepatotoxicity). Promptly stopping administration of the offending drug usually is the only potentially effective therapy.

A difficult question is when to stop administration of the investigational drug. Because transient rises and falls of ALT or AST are common, and progression to severe DILI or acute liver failure is uncommon, automatic discontinuation of study drug upon finding a greater than 3xULN

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elevation of ALT or AST may be unnecessary. For most people, the liver appears capable of adapting to injury by foreign chemical substances, which may render a person tolerant to the drug despite continuation of exposure. Stopping a drug at the first hint of mild injury does not permit learning whether adaptation will occur, as it does for drugs such as tacrine that cause liver injury but do not cause severe DILI. On the other hand, continuing drug administration too long can be dangerous once there is marked transaminase elevation or evidence of *functional* impairment appearing after hepatocellular injury, as indicated by rising bilirubin or INR, which represent substantial damage. Although there is no published consensus on when to stop a drug in the face of laboratory abnormalities, and the decision will be affected by information on related drugs, the accumulating clinical experience, the nature of the patient, and many other factors, the following can be considered a basic guide. In general, treatment should be stopped if:

- ALT or AST >8xULN
- ALT or AST >5xULN for more than 2 weeks
- ALT or AST >3xULN **and** (TBL >2xULN **or** INR >1.5)
- ALT or AST >3xULN with the appearance of worsening of fatigue, nausea, vomiting, right upper quadrant pain or tenderness, fever, rash, or eosinophilia

6. Evaluating Data for Alternative Causes

One of the critical purposes of close observation is to gather additional clinical information to determine the most likely cause or causes of the observed abnormalities, and specifically, whether there is a cause other than the study drug, such as one of the following common causes. Other less common causes also may need to be considered.

- **Acute viral hepatitis.** The usual onset of hepatocellular DILI is indistinguishable from acute viral hepatitis A or B. Hepatitis C is much less often acute in its onset and tends to be insidious, but it sometimes can resemble acute drug injury. The presence of acute viral hepatitis A, B, and C should always be evaluated by serological markers. Viral hepatitis D (requires concomitant hepatitis B infection) and E are relatively rare in the United States. Hepatitis E is more common in developing countries, including Southeast Asia, and should be considered in recent travelers to those countries. Also rare is liver injury caused by Epstein-Barr virus and cytomegalovirus, although this is seen more commonly in immuno-suppressed individuals. Adolescent and young adult patients with possible DILI should be tested for Epstein-Barr virus. Hepatitis is common among transplant patients with CMV disease.
- **Alcoholic and autoimmune hepatitis.** Acute alcoholic hepatitis usually is recurrent, with a history of binge exposure to alcohol preceding episodes, and it has some characteristic features, such as associated fever, leukocytosis, right upper quadrant pain and tenderness, and AST >ALT, that may help distinguish it from other causes of liver injury. Autoimmune hepatitis may be acute or even fulminant in its onset; it does not always respond immediately to corticosteroids, but may have serological markers of value. Alcoholic and autoimmune hepatitis should be assessed by history and serologic testing (e.g., antinuclear antibodies).

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- **Biliary tract disorders.** Biliary tract disease more often causes cholestatic injury initially and should be investigated with gall bladder and ductal ultrasound study, especially if ALP is increased. Malignant interruption of the biliary tract also should be considered.
- **Cardiovascular causes.** Cardiovascular disease, especially right heart failure and hypotension, may cause acute centrilobular hypoxic cell necrosis (*ischemic hepatitis*) with spectacular increases of serum AT (e.g., AT >10,000). Cardiovascular dysfunction, including hypotension or right heart failure, should be assessed by physical examination and history.

Exclusion of the two ABCs (i.e., viral hepatitis A, B, or C; alcoholic or autoimmune hepatitis, biliary disorders, and circulatory disorders) as causes of liver injury should be attempted in all cases of suspected DILI, and the results should be recorded. There is a practical limit as to how much testing should be done to exclude less common liver diseases, such as acute Wilson's disease or alpha-1-antitrypsin deficiency.

It is also critical to discover concomitant treatment that might be responsible for injury. Many people take multiple drugs, perhaps less often in controlled clinical trials because of exclusion criteria, but subjects may not report taking disallowed drugs or other agents. The possible exposure to potentially toxic herbal or dietary supplement mixtures of unknown composition, nonprescription medications such as acetaminophen, or to occupational chemical agents may not be volunteered unless subjects are specifically questioned.

7. Follow-Up to Resolution

All study subjects showing possible DILI should be followed until all abnormalities return to normal or to the baseline state. DILI may develop or progress even after the causative drug has been stopped. Results should be recorded on the case report form and in the database. Note that still longer follow-up can sometimes reveal an off-drug repetition of what had appeared to be DILI, indicating that liver injury was related to an underlying liver disease.

8. Rechallenge

Whether or not to rechallenge a subject who showed mild DILI is a difficult question. Re-exposure may initiate a sometimes explosive and more severe reaction, as was observed with halothane several decades ago. Some cases of DILI show indicators of immunological reaction such as eosinophilia, rash, fever, or other symptoms or findings, and it is possible that such cases are more prone to recur with re-exposure. On the other hand, most people can adapt to xenobiotic substances such as new drugs and develop tolerance for them, as has been found even for drugs that can cause severe injury, such as isoniazid. The large majority of people showing hepatocellular injury on isoniazid recover fully or recover while continuing to take the drug, and some, but not all, can resume or continue taking the drug without further adverse consequence. If such tolerance develops, the use of rechallenge to verify drug causation would give a false negative result.

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Generally, rechallenge of subjects with significant ($>5\times\text{ULN}$) AT elevations should not be attempted. If such subjects are rechallenged, they should be followed closely. Rechallenge can be considered if the subject has shown important benefit from the drug and other options are not available or if substantial accumulated data with the test drug do not show potential for severe injury. The subject should be made aware of the potential risk, and consent to the rechallenge.

9. Research Opportunities

It is not known why only a few people show severe DILI in response to a hepatotoxic drug while others show nothing or seem to adapt. The current thinking is that there may be a genetic basis for such differences, but acquired factors may be equally important. The period of close observation provides a major opportunity to gather and store serial samples of blood and urine, to investigate characteristics of subjects who show evidence of mild or severe DILI, and to see how they differ from each other and from people who do not show any effects despite being similar in age, sex, and drug exposure. These serial samples can be studied by genomic, proteomic, and metabolomic methods to determine how subjects differ, and to seek biomarkers that identify the susceptible persons.

As part of the Critical Path Initiative,³ the FDA is working with industry, academia, and other experts to broaden our understanding of the biochemical and genetic bases of DILI. In June 2006, the FDA co-sponsored a scientific workshop to determine the feasibility of developing a mathematical (in-silico) model for DILI from which other predictive experimental models can be derived to characterize potential hepatotoxicity. The long-term goal is to develop a model, or models, that can help researchers identify criteria for determining when early clinical intervention (i.e., stopping the drug) is appropriate. It is also hoped that predictive bioassays and biomarkers can be identified that will help determine which patients most likely will suffer liver toxicity from specific compounds.

This urgently needed research is not a regulatory requirement, but is an important opportunity. At present, we are able only to search among patients with drug-induced injury to predict what might happen to others. Ideally, we should seek to identify individuals at increased risk before administering a drug that they cannot tolerate. The goal is to be able to identify persons who should never be exposed to a given drug because they are idiosyncratically hypersusceptible to, or unable to recover from, DILI caused by it. If tests that screen for people susceptible to severe DILI can be developed, a hepatotoxic drug could remain available to people who are not susceptible to severe DILI, instead of having to withdraw the drug from the market, allowing no one to benefit from it.

In addition, identification of common genotypic characteristics among patients experiencing DILI in response to one or more class-related hepatotoxic agents might permit the development of in vitro or ex vivo tests or genetically altered animal strains that can be used to better predict serious hepatotoxic potential, or the lack thereof, of new drugs belonging to the same or closely related classes.

³ See <http://www.fda.gov/oc/initiatives/criticalpath>.

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B. Case Report Forms

In addition to collecting information on laboratory abnormalities, clinical symptoms, and the potential cause of any hepatic illness, case report forms should include the following information for cases in which liver injury is found (including control subjects with such injury):

- Time and date from start of drug administration to start of illness
- Time and date of cessation of drug, or interruption of drug administration
- Space for recording free text to describe the course of illness, including abnormalities of aminotransferases, ALP, and TBL
- Risk factors, especially alcohol use history
- Use of all concomitant drugs (dose, start and stop dates, whether drug is known to be hepatotoxic, rechallenge and dechallenge information)
- Evaluation of nondrug causes: recent hepatitis A, B, and C serology, evidence for biliary obstruction, acute alcoholic hepatitis (AST >2xALT), recent history of severe hypotension or congestive heart failure, underlying other viral disease
- Rechallenge and dechallenge information with suspect drug, with details of time and dose
- All supplemental information, including tests in local laboratories, unscheduled tests and physical exam reports, consultation reports, narrative information, and special studies

Any potential Hy's Law case should be handled as a serious unexpected adverse event associated with the use of the drug and reported to the FDA promptly. Reporting should include all available information and should initiate a close follow-up until complete resolution of the problem and completion of all attempts to obtain supplementary data.

C. Interpretation of Signals of DILI or Acute Liver Failure

1. Frequency and Magnitude of Liver AT Abnormalities

The presence of even a single case of severe liver failure resulting from treatment in the premarketing clinical trials database is an indicator of a high level of hepatotoxic risk. More commonly, however, there will be no identifiable cases of severe liver injury, but rather varying degrees of serum AT abnormalities that need to be interpreted. As previously noted, slight abnormalities of this kind (to <3xULN) are common in untreated and placebo-treated subjects and are not informative about the potential for the development of severe DILI.

Therefore, it has become standard practice to look at greater deviations, such as AT values ≥3x-, 5x-, or 10xULN. Because these abnormalities can occur in placebo-treated groups, it is important to compare their rate in drug-exposed subject groups relative to control groups (i.e., placebo or products that do not cause elevation of transaminases). An excess of AT abnormalities >3xULN is a signal of a potential for severe DILI, but, even though it has high sensitivity, it is not specific. Comparison of rates of AT elevations during drug treatment to a control group is probably less critical for abnormalities of greater magnitude (e.g., 10xULN), as such elevations are rarely seen spontaneously. Therefore, these greater AT elevations can be examined in the whole clinical trials database, not just in the controlled trials. It should be appreciated that serum AT activity is a relatively volatile measurement, often rising and falling

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within days. It cannot be concluded from one measurement that a peak value has been seen, so that detection of an abnormal rise is a call for serial measures to determine which way the abnormality is moving, whether increasing or decreasing.

A number of factors may confound interpretation of AT abnormalities seen in NDA or BLA databases. Although the more extreme AT elevations may be better predictors of toxicity than smaller elevations, it is possible that close monitoring could affect the magnitude of abnormalities seen if it leads to earlier cessation of drug treatment that prevents the greater abnormalities from appearing. In addition, the contribution of drug treatment to an exacerbation of preexisting liver disease may be difficult to determine. Finally, normalization of abnormalities on continued treatment is not proof that the abnormality was not drug-caused, but may result from liver adaptation to the drug.

2. Combined Elevations of Aminotransferases and Bilirubin

When AT abnormalities indicating hepatocellular injury are accompanied by evidence of impaired hepatic function (bilirubin elevation $>2 \times \text{ULN}$), in the absence of evidence for biliary obstruction (i.e., significant elevation of ALP) or some other explanation of the injury (e.g., viral hepatitis, alcohol hepatitis), the combined finding (i.e., Hy's Law cases) represents a signal of a potential for severe DILI. Experience has indicated that the occurrence of even one or two well-documented cases of this combination is ominous, indicating a likelihood that the drug will cause severe liver injury.

The absence of Hy's Law cases in an NDA or BLA database may allow an estimate of an upper limit of the rate for severe DILI, using the Rule of 3 derived from simple binomial calculation. There will be at least a 95 percent chance of seeing one or more cases of DILI in 3n study subjects if its true incidence is 1 in n subjects, and the group is well observed. Thus, if no cases of AT and bilirubin elevations are seen in 3,000 well-observed subjects, it can be concluded with 95 percent confidence that the true rate of such occurrences is not more than 1 per 1,000. This calculation would then suggest a rate of expected severe liver injury ≤ 1 per 10,000 exposed patients, assuming that the rate of severe injury when AT and TBL are both elevated is about 10 percent (Andrade and Lucena et al. 2005; Björnsson and Olsson 2005).

D. Analysis of Signals of DILI

Based on our experience, we recommend that the following analyses related to liver injury potential be carried out and included in an NDA or BLA, or included in an investigational new drug application when DILI is suspected and being evaluated.

1. Assessment of Drug Metabolism

The metabolism of a drug can have serious consequences for the safety profile of the drug. A drug may be metabolized to a hepatotoxic metabolite (e.g., acetaminophen, halothane, and isoniazid). Most hepatotoxic drugs have been oxidatively metabolized by the CYP450 system.

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Several *in vitro* methods are available to detect and quantify binding for a drug or its metabolites to liver proteins, including radiochemical and immunological methods.

2. Assessment of Liver-Related Adverse Events in Controlled Trials

Analysis of incidence rates of liver-related adverse events (abnormal AT, bilirubin, and ALP levels) seen in subjects in controlled trials with at least one dose of drug exposure should be provided, generally for pooled data, although study-to-study differences may be of interest. Rates can be given as the number of events per number of subjects exposed, or as the number of events per subject-years of exposure, preferably both. For many drugs, it appears that a minimum duration of exposure is required before DILI occurs. Therefore, it is useful to give the rates of liver-related adverse events for subjects who have had the minimum duration of exposure (e.g., rate in subjects with at least 1-month exposure). Rates for pooled data should include, but are not limited to:

- 3x-, 5x-, 10x-, and 20xULN elevations of AST, ALT, and either ALT or AST.
- Any elevations of bilirubin; elevated bilirubin to >1.5xULN, and to >2xULN.
- Any elevations of ALP >1.5xULN.
- Elevation of AT (>3xULN) accompanied by elevated bilirubin (>1.5xULN, >2xULN).
- Possibly liver-related deaths and liver-related treatment discontinuations. These cases should be described and time-to-event analyses should be performed. Follow-up status also should be provided. There should be a description of any histologic and rechallenge data.

All rates should be calculated separately for drug-, placebo-, and active-controlled groups. Normal ranges for all tests should be provided. Time-to-event analyses for elevated rates of significant individual events (e.g., elevated AT, bilirubin) should be provided. The contribution of sex, age, risk factors, and drug dose or regimen to the abnormalities seen should be explored.

3. Assessment of Liver-Related Adverse Events in the Entire Clinical Trials Database

Analysis of rates of liver-related adverse events (abnormal AT, bilirubin, and ALP levels) for the total clinical trials database, including subjects with exposure of at least one dose of study drug in phase 1 or phase 2 trials, or in uncontrolled, open label, extension trials should be provided. We recommend the same evaluation as for the controlled trials database discussed in section IV.D.2. Time-to-event analyses, mortality rates, study withdrawals, and similar data should be provided for significant abnormalities. The contribution of sex, age, and drug dose or regimen to the abnormalities seen should be explored.

4. Assessment of Hy's Law Cases in the Clinical Trials Database

NDA and BLA submissions should include a listing of possible Hy's Law cases identified by treatment group (e.g., subjects with any elevated AT of >3xULN, ALP <2xULN, and associated with an increase in bilirubin ≥ 2 xULN). A narrative summary for each Hy's Law case should be provided. Narrative summaries should not only provide, in text format, the data that are already

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presented in the case report tabulation, but also should provide a complete synthesis of all available clinical data and an informed discussion of the case, allowing for a better understanding of what the subject experienced. For a narrative summary to be useful, it should contain the following information:

- Subject's age, sex, weight, and height
- Discussion of signs and symptoms related to hepatotoxicity: type and timing
- Relationship of exposure duration and dose to the development of the liver injury
- Pertinent medical history
- Concomitant medications with dates and doses
- Pertinent physical exam findings
- Test results (e.g., laboratory data, biopsy data and reports, with dates and normal ranges)
- Time course of serum enzyme and bilirubin elevations
- A summary of all available clinical information including, if known:
 - Prior or current history of ethanol use
 - Evidence for pre- or co-existing viral hepatitis, or other forms of liver disease
 - Symptoms and clinical course including follow-up to resolution
 - Special studies, radiologic examinations, liver biopsy results
 - Presence or absence of possible confounders, including concomitant illness, use of concomitant medications that are known hepatotoxins, such as acetaminophen
- Discussion of hepatotoxicity as supported by available clinical data and overall assessment of treating physician, consultants, and applicants as to the likelihood of DILI
- Treatment provided
- Dechallenge and rechallenge results, if done
- Outcomes and follow-up information
- Copies of hospital discharge summaries, pathology and autopsy reports

The availability of liver biopsy, explant, or autopsy slides for pathology review by review staff or external expert consultants has been helpful in the FDA's assessment of such cases. Reports of external consultant opinions solicited by the applicant should be provided to the FDA.

Complete narrative summaries that include the components previously listed also should be provided for all subjects who died of hepatic illness, or who discontinued study drugs for hepatotoxicity, including subjects with abnormalities consistent with protocol-specific stopping rules.

5. Overall Assessment of a Drug's Potential to Cause DILI

The overall assessment should characterize a drug's potential for DILI and should consider at least the following questions:

- Was liver monitoring sufficiently frequent and thorough to characterize DILI risk?
- Were there any cases of probably drug-induced serious or severe DILI?
- Were there signals of a potential for DILI (e.g., AT elevations, Hy's Law cases) and how were these signals assessed?

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- What doses and durations of exposure were associated with hepatotoxicity signals?
- What approximate incidence of mild, moderate, and severe DILI could be expected postmarketing?
- Is the trial information sufficient to inform an overall risk-benefit assessment?
- Was there sufficient drug exposure (i.e., number of study subjects and duration of treatment of each study subject) and adequate liver test monitoring to reliably set an upper boundary for risk of severe DILI after marketing?
- What rate of severe injury (assuming Hy's Law cases occur at about 10 times the rate of severe injury) has been suggested or has been ruled out (e.g., no Hy's Law cases in 3,000 subjects implies a rate of such cases of $<1/1,000$ and thus a rate of severe DILI of $<1/10,000$)? This consideration should reflect the presence or absence of other signals, such as marked elevations of AT.
- Will some form of monitoring, by symptoms or serum testing, be needed? Usually, this would be considered only if there was evidence of severe liver injury or the potential for it. If so, effectiveness of monitoring in the NDA database should be discussed.

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APPENDIX A: ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF DILI

Duract (bromfenac)

Bromfenac was a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) studied for both short-term analgesia and long-term arthritis treatment. There was little evidence of hepatotoxicity in the short-term analgesic trials, but during longer term clinical trials in arthritis, ALT elevations $>3\times\text{ULN}$ were seen in 2.8 percent of patients on bromfenac, compared to none in placebo group. Among 1,195 exposed patients, there were two cases in which there was elevated TBL as well as AT elevation in the clinical trial data submitted for review in the NDA. Concerns about possible liver toxicity led to the approval of bromfenac in July 1997 for short-term use only and not for osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis. As an NSAID, however, it was prescribed long-term off-label in arthritic patients, and severe hepatotoxicity emerged. Within 6 months of approval, reports of severe hepatic failure, including two cases requiring liver transplant, were received. All severe cases involved the use of bromfenac for more than 10 days, the maximum duration of treatment recommended in the labeling.

In response, the FDA and the manufacturer strengthened the warnings in the package insert with a boxed warning, and issued a Dear Health Care Professional letter. Despite these efforts, the manufacturer and the FDA continued to receive reports of severe injuries, including reports of death or need for liver transplantation (Moses and Schroeder et al. 1999; Hunter and Johnston et al. 1999; Rabkin and Smith et al. 1999; Fontana and McCashland et al. 1999). Given the availability of other NSAIDs of equal effectiveness and safety, bromfenac was withdrawn from the market in June 1998. The two Hy's Law cases in the long-term-exposed population of about 1,000 subjects during drug development predicted an occurrence of severe hepatotoxicity during chronic use at a rate of about 1/5,000 to 10,000 people. Following approval, rates of acute liver failure for bromfenac were estimated to be in the range of 1/10,000 (Goldkind and Laine 2006).

Rezulin (troglitazone)

Troglitazone was approved by the FDA in January 1997 for the treatment of Type 2 diabetes mellitus. In reviews of the clinical trials of troglitazone conducted before approval there were no cases of liver failure among 2,510 subjects exposed to the drug in the NDA database, but 1.9 percent of troglitazone-treated subjects had ALT $>3\times\text{ULN}$ compared to 0.3 percent of placebo-treated subjects, 1.7 percent had ALT $>5\times\text{ULN}$, and 0.2 percent (5 subjects) had ALT $>30\times\text{ULN}$ (2 subjects in the last group also experienced jaundice). The median duration of troglitazone therapy before peak ALT elevation was 121 days. In the Diabetes Prevention Trial at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) performed after approval, 4.3 percent of 585 troglitazone-treated subjects had ALT $\geq 3\times\text{ULN}$, 1.5 percent had ALT $>8\times\text{ULN}$, and 2 subjects had ALT $>30\times\text{ULN}$, compared to 3.6 percent of subjects with ALT $\geq 3\times\text{ULN}$ in the placebo group (Knowler and Hamman et al. 2005). One of the subjects with ALT $>30\times\text{ULN}$ developed liver failure and died, despite receiving a liver transplant. The second subject recovered. These data suggest that the rate of severe liver injury would be about 1 in 3,000 to 10,000.

After marketing, there were numerous reports (Gitlin and Julie et al. 1998; Vella and deGroen et al. 1998; Herrine and Choudary 1999) of acute liver failure associated with troglitazone use, and

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four letters were sent to practicing physicians between 1997 and 1999, urging monthly monitoring and careful use. These letters did not significantly affect the monitoring done by physicians, and AT monitoring recommended in the Dear Health Care Professional letters and in the package insert was not regularly performed (Graham and Drinkard et al. 2001). Moreover, an analysis of 94 cases of liver failure reported spontaneously to the FDA showed that the progression from normal hepatic test results to irreversible liver injury occurred in less than a month (the recommended monitoring interval) in 19 patients. The onset of injury began after 3 days to more than 2 years of troglitazone use (Graham and Green et al. 2003a; Graham and Drinkard et al. 2003b). Time from jaundice to hepatic encephalopathy, liver transplantation, or death usually was rapid, averaging 24 days. Troglitazone was withdrawn from the United States market in March 2000, when other agents (rosiglitazone, pioglitazone) with similar efficacy but little or no hepatotoxicity became available.

Apart from constituting another example of the predictive value of evidence of hepatocellular injury accompanied by even two cases of elevated bilirubin, there were other lessons learned from the troglitazone experience: 1) monitoring recommendations, even after several warning letters to all practicing physicians, may not be well followed; and 2) some cases of severe hepatotoxicity occur rapidly, within less than a reasonable and practical recommended interval for monitoring, indicating that monitoring would provide at best only partial protection, even if recommendations were followed. In addition, following the withdrawal of troglitazone, many companies began to search for toxigenomic answers to determining individual susceptibility to DILI, and a national network was funded by NIH in 2003 to study the problem (Watkins 2005).

Exanta (ximelagatran)

Exanta (ximelagatran), an oral anticoagulant (antithrombin), was not marketed in the United States because of hepatotoxicity and other concerns discovered during clinical trials. Issues related to potential liver toxicity of ximelagatran were presented and discussed at an FDA advisory committee meeting in September 2004 (He 2004). During short-term clinical trials of the drug for prevention of thromboembolic complications after joint replacement surgical procedures, there was no increased rate of transaminase elevations in the ximelagatran group compared to the enoxaparin-warfarin group, and no serious hepatotoxicity was seen. But in longer-term (>35 days) trials in patients with chronic atrial fibrillation to prevent embolic or thrombotic strokes, an increase in ALT >3xULN occurred in 7.6 percent of 6,948 patients compared to 1.1 percent of patients receiving warfarin treatment; and 1.5 percent of ximelagatran-treated patients had ALT >10xULN.

Increases in AT typically occurred 1 to 6 months after the initiation of ximelagatran administration with peak levels within 2 to 3 months post-randomization. Among the 531 ximelagatran patients with ALT >3xULN, 39 percent completed the study on treatment, while 61 percent discontinued the drug. Almost all patients with ALT >3xULN returned to <2xULN whether the drug was stopped or not, although the return to normal was faster if ximelagatran was stopped. Of 18 patients who resumed drug after ALT returned to normal, only 2 had elevations recur. Concomitant elevations of ALT >3xULN and bilirubin >2xULN were observed in 37 of about 7,000 patients, at least 13 of whom had no alternative explanation for the concomitant ALT and bilirubin elevation. Nine of the 37 patients died, but the deaths were not

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clearly hepatotoxicity-related in most cases. Only one autopsy was done and it showed a small, friable and diffusely mottled liver suggestive of severe diffuse hepatic necrosis, but liver failure from ximelagatran might have contributed to some of the other deaths (He 2004; Lewis 2006; Kaplowitz 2006; Senior 2006; Temple 2006). Because severe hepatotoxicity was observed in an orthopedic surgery trial in an extended treatment of 35 days, Exanta was withdrawn in February 2006 from the 22 countries in which it had been approved, and further development in the United States was abandoned.

Again, short-term tolerance of ximelagatran, with resolution of even substantial elevations of ALT in most cases did not predict long-term safety. The relatively high rate of Hy's Law cases, about 0.2 percent or 1/500 (13 cases among 7,000 exposed patients), predicted the occurrence of severe hepatotoxicity, at a rate of about 1/5,000 (10 percent of the rate of Hy's Law cases). In fact, at least one death occurred among the 7,000 exposed patients subsequent liver toxicity, further supporting such an estimate.

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hepatomphalocele (hep'-ā-tom-fal'-ō-sel, hep'-ā-tom-fā-lō-sel) [hepato- + omphalocele]. Hepatophalos: umbilical hernia with involvement of the liver.

hepatomphalos (hep'-ā-tom-fā-lōs). Hepatomphalocele.

hepatonecrosis (hep'-ā-tō-ne-k'rō-sis). Death of liver cells.

hepatonephric (hep'-ā-tō-nef'rik). Hepatorenal.

hepatonephromegaly (hep'-ā-tō-nef'rō-meg'-ā-lē) [hepato- + *G. nephros*, kidney, + *megas*, great]. Enlargement of both liver and kidney or kidneys.

hepatopathic (hep'-ā-tō-path'ik). Damaging the liver.

hepatopathy (hep'-ā-tō-pa'thē) [hepato- + *G. pathos*, suffering]. Disease of the liver.

hepatoperitonitis (hep'-ā-tō-pār'i-tō-n'itis). Perihepatitis.

hepatopetal (hep'-ā-tō-pe'tal). Toward the liver, usually referring to the normal direction of portal blood flow.

hepatopexy (hep'-ā-tō-pek'-sē) [hepato- + *G. pēxis*, fixation]. Anchoring of the liver to the abdominal wall.

hepatophyma (hep'-ā-tō-fī'mā) [hepato- + *G. phyma*, tumor]. Rounded or nodular tumor of the liver.

hepatopneumonic (hep'-ā-tō-nū-mon'ik) [hepato- + *G. pneumonikos*, pulmonary]. Hepaticopulmonary; hepatopulmonary: relating to the liver and the lungs.

hepatportal (hep'-ā-tō-pōr'tāl). Relating to the portal system of the liver.

hepatoptosis (hep'-ā-tō-pō'sis, tō'sis) [hepato- + *G. ptōsis*, a falling]. Wandering liver; a downward displacement of the liver.

hepatopulmonary (hep'-ā-tō-pūl mō-nār'ē). Hepatopneumonic.

hepatorenal (hep'-ā-tō-rē'nāl) [hepato- + *L. renalis*, renal, fr. *renes*, kidneys]. Hepatorenic; relating to the liver and the kidney.

hepatorrhagia (hep'-ā-tō-rā-jē'-ā) [hepato- + *G. rhēgnymi*, to burst forth]. Hemorrhage into or from the liver.

hepatorrhaphy (hep'-ā-tō-rā-fē) [hepato- + *G. raphē*, a suture]. Suture of a wound of the liver.

hepatorrhoea (hep'-ā-tō-rē'-ā) [hepato- + *G. rhoia*, a flow]. Obsolete term for cholorrhoea.

hepatorrhixia (hep'-ā-tō-rek'-sis) [hepato- + *G. rhēxis*, rupture]. Rupture of the liver.

hepatoscopy (hep'-ā-tōs'kō-pē) [hepato- + *G. skopeō*, to examine]. Examination of the liver.

hepatosplenitis (hep'-ā-tō-splē-n'itis). Inflammation of the liver and spleen.

hepatosplenography (hep'-ā-tō-splē-nog'vā-fē). Hepatolienography: the use of a contrast medium to outline or depict the liver and spleen roentgenographically.

hepatosplenomegaly (hep'-ā-tō-splē-nō-meg'-ā-lē) [hepato- + *G. splēn*, spleen, + *megas*, large]. Hepatolienomegaly: enlargement of the liver and spleen.

hepatosplenopathy (hep'-ā-tō-splē-nop'-ā-thē). Disease of the liver and spleen.

hepatostomy (hep'-ā-tōs'tō-mē) [hepato- + *G. stoma*, mouth]. Establishment of a fissure into the liver.

hepatotherapy (hep'-ā-tō-thār'-ā-pē). 1. Treatment of disease of the liver. 2. Therapeutic use of liver extract or of the raw substance of the liver.

hepatotomy (hep'-ā-tōt'ō-mē) [hepato- + *G. tomē*, incision]. Incision into the liver.

hepatotoxemia (hep'-ā-tō-tok-sē'mē-ā) [hepato- + *G. toxikon*, poison, + *haima*, blood]. Autointoxication assumed to be due to improper functioning of the liver.

hepatotoxic (hep'-ā-tō-tok'sik). Relating to an agent that damages

the liver, or pertaining to any such action.

hepatotoxin (hep'-ā-tō-tok'sin). A toxin that is destructive to parenchymal cells of the liver.

Hepatooon (hep'-ā-tō-zō'on) [hepato- + *G. zōon*, animal]. A genus of coccidian parasites (family Haemogregarinidae), in which schizogony occurs in the visceral organs, gametogony in the leukocytes or erythrocytes of vertebrate animals, and sporogony in centurians and other blood-sucking invertebrates. *H. canis* occurs in dogs, cats, jackals, and hyenas. but is most pathogenic in dogs, in which it may cause serious disease and death; other species have been described from rats, mice, rabbits, and squirrels.

hepta- [*G. hepta*, seven]. Prefix denoting seven.

heptabarbitral (hep'-ā-bar'bi-tawl). 5-(1-Cyclohepten-1-yl)-5-ethylbarbituric acid; a short-acting barbiturate that produces sedation, hypnosis, or anesthesia, depending upon the dose administered.

heptad (hep'tad). A septivalent chemical element or radical.

heptaminol (hep-tam'i-nol). 6-Amino-2-methyl-2-heptanol; a sympathomimetic, vasoconstrictor, and cardiotonic.

heptanal (hep'tā-nāl). Enanthal; heptaldehyde; $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_5\text{CHO}$, obtained from the ricinoleic acid of castor oil by chemical means.

heptanoic acid (hep'tā-nō'ik). 6-Amino-2-methyl-2-heptanoic acid; used in the manufacture of ethyl oenanthate, a constituent of many artificial essences (flavors).

heptanose hydrochloride (hep'tā-zōn). Phenadoxone hydrochloride.

heptose (hep'tōs). A sugar with 7 carbon atoms in its molecule; e.g., sedoheptulose.

heptulose (hep'tū-lōs). Ketoheptose.

D-altrio-2-heptulose. Ketoheptulose.

D-manno-heptulose. A ketoheptose of the mannose configuration, occurring in the urine of individuals who have eaten a large quantity of avocados.

Herbert, Herbert. British ophthalmic surgeon, 1865-1942. See *H.'s operation*.

herbivorous (her-biv'ō-rūs) [*L. herbu*, herb, + *voro*, to devour]. Feeding on plants.

Herbst, Ernst F.G. German anatomist, 1803-1893. See *H.'s cuspules*.

herd. 1. A group of people or animals in a given area. 2. An immunologic concept of an ecologic composite that includes susceptible animal species (including man), vectors, and environmental factors.

hereditary (hē-red'i-ter-ē) [*L. hereditarius*: fr. *heres* (hered-), an heir]. Transmitted from parent to offspring; derived from ancestry; obtained by inheritance.

heredity (hē-red'i-tē) [*L. hereditas*, inheritance, fr. *heres* (hered-), heir]. The transmission of characters from parent to offspring.

heredo- [*L. heres*, an heir]. Prefix denoting heredity.

heredoataxia (her'ē-dō-ā-tak'sē-ā). Hereditary spinal ataxia.

heredofamilial (her'ē-dō-fā-mil'ē-ā). Obsolete term denoting an inherited condition present in more than one member of a family.

heredopathia atactica polyneuritisformis (her'ē-dō-path'ē-ā-tak'ti-kā pol'ē-nū-ri-ti-fōr'mis). Refsum's disease.

Herelle, Felix H. See d'Herelle, Felix H.

Herellea (hē-ref-ē-ā). A bacterial generic name which has been officially rejected because its type species, *H. vaginicola*, is a member of the genus *Acetobacter*.

Hering, Heinrich Ewald, German physiologist, 1866-1948. See *H.'s nerve of H. H. Breuer reflex*; Traube-H. curve.

Hering, Karl E.K., German physiologist, 1834-1918. See *H.'s theory*; canal of H.; Traube-H. curves, waves; Semon-H. theory.

heritability (her'i-tā-bil'i-tē) [see heredity]. 1. In intelligence or per-

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Clinical Manifestations of Adverse Reactions to Drugs

VI. RESPIRATORY MANIFESTATIONS

Airway obstruction (bronchospasm, asthma; see also anaphylaxis)	Cough	Pulmonary hypertension	Pulmonary infiltrates (cont.)
Adenosine	ACE inhibitors	Fenfluramine	Methysergide
Beta blockers	Nasal congestion	Pulmonary infiltrates	Mitomycin C
Cephalosporins	Decongestant abuse	Acyclovir	Nitrofurantoin
Cholinergic drugs	Guaneethidine	Amiodarone	Procainamide
NSAIDs, e.g., aspirin,	Isoproterenol	Azathioprine	Sulfonamides
indomethacin	Oral contraceptives	Bleomycin	Respiratory depression
Penicillins	Reserpine	Busulfan	Aminoglycosides
Pentazocine	Pulmonary edema	Carmustine (BCNU)	Hypnotics
Streptomycin	Contrast media	Chlorambucil	Opiates
Tartrazine (drugs with yellow dye)	Heroin	Cyclophosphamide	Polymyxins
	Hydrochlorothiazide	Gold	Sedatives
	Interleukin 2	Melphalan	Trimethaphan
	Methadone	Methotrexate	
	Propoxyphene		

VII. GASTROINTESTINAL MANIFESTATIONS

Cholestatic hepatitis	Diffuse hepatocellular damage	Gallstones/biliary pseudolithiasis	Oral conditions
Acetohexamide	Acetaminophen (paracetamol)	Ceftriaxone	Salivary gland swelling (cont.)
Anabolic steroids	Acetazolol	Intestinal ulceration	Guanethidine
Androgens	Allopurinol	Solid KCl preparations	Iodides
Chlorpromazine	Aminosalicylic acid	Malabsorption	Phenylbutazone
Clavulanic acid/amoxicillin	Amiodarone	Aminosalicylic acid	Taste disturbances:
Cyclosporine	Aprindine	Antibiotics (broad-spectrum)	Acetazolamide
Erythromycin estolate	Carbenicillin	Cholestyramine	Biguanides
Flucloxacillin	Cyclophosphamide	Colchicine	Captopril
Gold salts	Dapsone	Colestipol	Grisofulvin
Methimazole	Diclofenac	Cytotoxic agents	Lithium
Nitrofurantoin	Erythromycin estolate	Neomycin	Metronidazole
Oral contraceptives	Ethionamide	Phenobarbital	Penicillamine
Phenothiazines	Felbamate	Phenytol	Rifampin
Constipation or ileus	Glyburide	Primidone	Ulceration:
Aluminum hydroxide	Halothane	Nausea or vomiting	Aspirin
Barium sulfate	Isoniazid	Digitalis	Cytotoxic agents
Calcium carbonate	Ketoconazole	Estrogens	Gentian violet
Ferrous sulfate	Levodopa	Ferrous sulfate	Isoproterenol (sublingual)
Ganglionic blockers	Lovastatin	Levodopa	Pancratin
Ion exchange resins	Methimazole	Opiates	Pancreatitis
Opiates	Methotrexate	Potassium chloride	Asparaginase
Phenothiazines	Methoxyflurane	Tetracyclines	Azathioprine
Tricyclic antidepressants	Methyldopa	Theophylline	Didanosine
Verapamil	Monoamine oxidase inhibitors	Oral conditions	Estrogens
Diarrhea or colitis	Niacin	Dental discoloration:	Ethacrynic acid
Antibiotics (broad-spectrum)	Nifedipine	Tetracycline	Furosemide
Clinidamycin	Nitrofurantoin	Dry mouth:	Glucocorticoids
Cocaine	Oxyphenisatin	Anticholinergics	Mercaptopurine
Colchicine	Phenytoin and other hydantoins	Clonidine	Opiates
Digitalis	Propoxyphene	Levodopa	Oral contraceptives
Guanethidine	Propylthiouracil	Methyldopa	Pentamidine
Lactose excipients	Pyridium	Tricyclic antidepressants	Sulfonamides
Lincomycin	Quinidine	Gingival hyperplasia:	Thiazides
Magnesium in antacids	Rifampin	Calcium antagonists	Valproic acid
Methyldopa	Salicylates	Cyclosporine	Peptic ulceration or
Misoprostol	Sodium valproate	Phenytoin	hemorrhage
Oral contraceptives	Sulfonamides	Salivary gland swelling:	Aspirin
Purgatives	Tacrine	Bethandine	Ethacrynic acid
Reserpine	Tetracyclines	Bretylum	Glucocorticoids
Ticlopidine	Trazodone	Clonidine	NSAIDs†
	Verapamil		Reserpine (large doses)
	Zidovudine (AZT)		

(continued)

Table 296-2

Principal Alterations of Hepatic Morphology Produced by Some Commonly Used Drugs and Chemicals*

Principal Morphologic Change	Class of Agent	Example
Cholestasis	Anabolic steroid	Methyl testosterone.
	Anti-inflammatory	Salindac
	Antithyroid	Methimazole
	Antibiotic	Erythromycin estolate, nitrofurantoin, rifampin
	Oral contraceptive	Norethynodrel with mestranol
	Oral hypoglycemic	Chlorpropamide
	Tranquilizer	Chlorpromazine†
	Oncotherapeutic	Anabolic steroids, busulfan, tamoxifen
	Immunosuppressive	Cyclosporine
	Anticonvulsant	Carbamazine
Fatty liver	Calcium channel blocker	Nifedipine, verapamil
	Antibiotic	Tetracycline
	Anticonvulsant	Sodium valproate
	Antiarrhythmic	Amiodarone
	Antiviral	Dideoxynucleosides (e.g., zidovudine)
	Oncotherapeutic	Asparaginase, methotrexate
	Anesthetic	Haloethane†
	Anticonvulsant	Phenytoin, carbamazepine
	Antihypertensive	Methyldopa,‡ captopril, enalapril
	Antibiotic	Isoniazid,‡ rifampin, nitrofurantoin
Hepatitis	Diuretic	Chlorothiazide
	Laxative	Oxyphenisatin†
	Antidepressant	Iproniazid, amitriptyline, imipramine
	Anti-inflammatory	Ibuprofen, indomethacin, diclofenac, sulindac
	Antifungal	Ketoconazole, fluconazole, itraconazole
	Antiviral	Zidovudine, dideoxyinosine
	Calcium channel blocker	Nifedipine, verapamil, diltiazem
	Androgen	Flutamide
	Immunosuppressive	Azathioprine
	Lipid-lowering	Nicotinic acid, lovastatin
Mixed hepatitis/cholestatic Toxic (necrosis)	Hydrocarbon	Carbon tetrachloride
	Metal	Yellow phosphorus
	Mushroom	Amanita phalloides
	Analgesic	Acetaminophen
	Solvent	Dimethylformamide
	Anti-inflammatory	Phenylbutazone
	Antibiotic	Sulfonamides
	Xanthine oxidase inhibitor	Allopurinol
	Antiarrhythmic	Quinidine
	Anticonvulsant	Carbamazine
Granulomas		

* Several agents cause more than one type of liver lesion and appear under more than one category.

† Rarely associated with primary biliary cirrhosis-like lesion.

‡ Occasionally associated with chronic hepatitis or bridging hepatic necrosis or cirrhosis.

angiosarcoma of the liver. Oral contraceptives have been implicated in the development of hepatic adenoma and, rarely, hepatocellular carcinoma and occlusion of the hepatic vein (Budd-Chiari syndrome). Another unusual lesion, peliosis hepatis (blood cysts of the liver), has been observed in some patients treated with anabolic steroids. The existence of these hepatic disorders expands the spectrum of liver

injury induced by chemical agents and emphasizes the need for a thorough drug history in all patients with liver dysfunction.

The following are the patterns of adverse hepatic reactions for some prototypic agents.

ACETAMINOPHEN HEPATOTOXICITY (DIRECT TOX.

IN) Acetaminophen has caused severe centrilobular hepatic necrosis when ingested in large amounts in suicide attempts or accidentally by children. A single dose of 10 to 15 g, occasionally less, may produce clinical evidence of liver injury. Fatal fulminant disease is usually (although not invariably) associated with ingestion of 25 g or more. Blood levels of acetaminophen correlate with the severity of hepatic injury (levels above 300 µg/mL 4 h after ingestion are predictive of the development of severe damage, while levels below 150 µg/mL suggest that hepatic injury is highly unlikely). Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, and shock are early manifestations occurring 4 to 12 h after ingestion. Then 24 to 48 h later, when these features are abating, hepatic injury becomes apparent. Maximal abnormalities and hepatic failure may not be evident until 4 to 6 days after ingestion, and aminotransferase levels approaching 10,000 units are not uncommon. Renal failure and myocardial injury may be present.

Acetaminophen hepatotoxicity is mediated by a toxic reactive metabolite formed from the parent compound by the cytochrome P450 mixed-function oxidase system of the hepatocyte. This metabolite is detoxified by binding to glutathione. When excessive amounts of the metabolite are formed, glutathione levels in the liver fall, and the metabolite is covalently bound to nucleophilic hepatocyte macromolecules. This process is believed to lead to hepatocyte necrosis; the precise sequence and mechanism are unknown. Hepatic injury may be potentiated by prior administration of alcohol or other drugs, by conditions that stimulate the mixed-function oxidase system, or by conditions such as starvation that reduce hepatic glutathione levels. Cimetidine, which inhibits P450 enzymes, has the potential to reduce generation of the toxic metabolite. In chronic alcoholics, the toxic dose of acetaminophen may be as low as 2 g.

ⓧ TREATMENT

Treatment of acetaminophen overdose includes gastric lavage, supportive measures, and oral administration of activated charcoal or cholestyramine to prevent absorption of residual drug. Neither of these agents appears to be effective if given more than 30 min after acetaminophen ingestion; if they are used, the stomach lavage should be done before other agents are administered orally. In patients with high acetaminophen blood levels (>200 µg/mL measured at 4 h or >100 µg/mL at 8 h after ingestion), the administration of sulphydryl compounds (e.g., cysteamine, cysteine, or N-acetylcysteine) appears to reduce the severity of hepatic necrosis. These agents appear to act by providing a reservoir of sulphydryl groups to bind the toxic metabolites or by stimulating synthesis and replenishment of hepatic glutathione. Therapy should be begun within 8 h of ingestion but may be effective even if given as late as 24 to 36 h after overdose. Later administration of sulphydryl compounds is of uncertain value. Routine use of N-acetylcysteine has reduced substantially the occurrence of fatal acetaminophen hepatotoxicity. When given orally, N-acetylcysteine is diluted to yield a 5% solution. A loading dose of 140 mg/kg is given, followed by 70 mg/kg every 4 h for 15 to 20 doses. Treatment can be stopped when plasma acetaminophen levels indicate that the risk of liver damage is low.

Survivors of acute acetaminophen overdose usually have no evidence of hepatic sequelae. In a few patients, prolonged or repeated administration of acetaminophen in therapeutic doses appears to have led to the development of chronic hepatitis and cirrhosis.

HALOETHANE HEPATOTOXICITY (IDIOSYNCRATIC REACTION) Administration of haloethane, a nonexplosive fluorinated hydrocarbon anesthetic agent that is structurally similar to chloroform, results in severe hepatic necrosis in a small number of individuals, many of whom have previously been exposed to this agent. The failure to produce similar hepatic lesions reliably in animals, the rarity of hepatic impairment in human beings, and the delayed appearance

FDA panel wants stronger acetaminophen warnings

A US advisory panel has recommended that explicit warnings about the possibility of liver toxicity should be added to all packs of OTC products containing acetaminophen (paracetamol). Although the risk of hepatotoxicity with the product is low statistically, in numerical terms it is high, with several hundred people dying each year. McNeil Consumer & Specialty Products, which presented data showing that the drug is safe at the recommended dosages, has already decided to add such a warning to its top-selling Tylenol line.

The US FDA's non-prescription drugs advisory committee met on September 19th for the first day of a two-day session to review the safety of several OTC analgesics, beginning with acetaminophen. Panelists said all OTC products in which acetaminophen is an active ingredient, such as cough-cold medicines, should clearly state this on the front of the pack.

However, except in the case of high alcohol use, it decided that there was insufficient information to require warnings about a higher risk of liver damage due to other possible risk factors, such as underlying liver disease, use of other drugs or malnourishment.

Acetaminophen labelling currently instructs users who consume three or more alcoholic drinks a day to ask their doctor whether they should take acetaminophen or other pain relievers/fever reducers. However, the committee said the specific warning about hepatotoxicity associated with acetaminophen should be kept separate from this instruction, so that users would not conclude that only alcohol consumption can lead to liver damage.

... hepatotoxicity risk

Annual overdoses associated with acetaminophen result in 56,000 emergency department visits each year, including 26,000 hospitalisations and more than 400 deaths, reported Dr William Lee, professor of liver disease at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. However, Dr Debra Bowen, McNeil's vice-president for R&D, noted that more than 100 million Americans consume acetaminophen preparations each year. "Harm is rare," she said.

Dr Lee said about two-thirds of the overdoses were suicide attempts. Nevertheless, more than 2,000 hospitalisations and 100 deaths a year can be attributed to unintentional acetaminophen-associated overdoses, he said. The FDA asked the advisory committee to focus on these cases, on the assumption that label and pack changes could not reduce the number of suicide attempts.

That assumption was challenged by Dr Peter Lurie of the US consumer advocacy organisation, Public Citizen.

"In fact, many countries have sought to address the problem of suicides or 'intentional overdoses'," he said. In the UK, for example, an experiment implemented in September 1998 restricted the number of acetaminophen tablets per pack to 16 in supermarkets and 32 in pharmacies, primarily through the use of blister packs. "Although one can buy several packs, prescriptions are required to obtain more than 100 tablets."

Early evaluation of the programme has shown decreases in total and severe acetaminophen overdoses as well as decreases in acetaminophen-overdose liver transplants and deaths, although the results are not completely consistent between studies, Dr Lurie said.

A member of the audience rose to inform the committee that acetaminophen sales in the UK had dropped by half

since the restrictions came into effect. Aspirin sales also declined, but the use of other analgesics, including ibuprofen, had doubled, he said. But Dr Charles Ganley, director of the FDA's division of OTC drug products, said the agency would have to have good justification to restrict pack sizes in the same way. Such a move would need clearances from numerous bodies, such as the White House Office of Management and Budget. "And if we don't have data to support that, it's very difficult to impose it on someone," Dr Ganley said.

... lack of information

Unintended overdosing is usually caused by lack of information, the committee was told. The mother of a young man who died of liver failure after taking acetaminophen plus codeine and then OTC acetaminophen said that everyone had thought it was safe.

"We continue to meet doctors who are unaware of the frequency of acetaminophen toxicity," she said. "Most people know about stomach problems and bleeding associated with NSAIDs. Why aren't they aware of acetaminophen liver problems?"

Dr Susan Winckler, vice-president and staff counsel of the American Pharmaceutical Association, said a study by the National Council on Patient Information and Education (NCPIE) on OTC medications had found that only 34% of consumers read label information about the active ingredient, and only 21% read the warnings section.

Only 28% of parents and other "caregivers" were aware that OTCs could have side-effects, and only 36% could name a possible side-effect for a given medication. Most panelists wanted the FDA, which does not regulate OTC advertising, to recommend to the Federal Trade Commission, which does, that it require acetaminophen manufacturers to warn of liver toxicity in their TV and print ads.

In the US, the recommended dose of acetaminophen for adults is 4g per day. McNeil consultant Dr Richard Dart, director of the Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug Center in Colorado, said prospective studies indicate no toxicity at or near the recommended dose. The studies also showed that serious hepatotoxicity occurs following substantial overdose, either a single dose of about 15g or multiple doses of around 12g/day.

However, Dr Claudia Karwoski of the FDA's Office of Drug Safety found 23 cases of severe liver injury with acetaminophen at doses of 4g or less per day in the FDA's Adverse Event Reporting System (AERS) database. Ten of these cases were associated with alcoholism or alcohol use, three with regular alcohol use, 13 with liver problems, and three with poor nutrition status.

Dr Karwoski said it was difficult to draw conclusions from these cases, as there was no certainty that the dosing information was reliable or that the cases were unintentional. On the other hand, the FDA estimates that only 1-10% of adverse events are reported to it, she said.

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from which the company reported results in November (*Script* No 3316, p 19). It met its primary endpoint, median time to onset of relief of symptoms, with a 20 units/kg dose – 30 minutes versus 1.5 hours with placebo. A 10 units/kg dose showed a trend towards improvement which did not reach significance, but CSL declined to give the precise data.

The trial also met all its secondary endpoints, including worsening of symptoms and time to complete resolution of HAE symptoms.

There are no specifically approved therapies in the US for HAE, a genetic disorder thought to affect up to 75,000 people in the US and Europe that causes recurrent attacks of inflammation in the extremities, face, urogenital tract, abdomen and larynx. Laryngeal attacks can be fatal.

It is caused by a deficiency of the plasma protein C1 esterase inhibitor, which in healthy people decreases activity of the complement and kallikrein systems which are responsible for the inflammation seen in the disorder.

Current treatments include anabolic steroids to prevent attacks, and pain control and rehydration, or antifibrinolytics such as tranexamic acid during attacks; however, patients often have to wait for the pain and swelling to subside. CSL has marketed C1-INH as Berninert in several European countries for 30 years including Germany, Austria and Switzerland. CSL said it had developed the product in the US after becoming aware of the growing unmet need there in recent years. The firm does have plans to file it in the EU, but declined to say when.

...competition

There are several products vying to become the first specifically approved treatment for HAE in the US. Lev Pharmaceuticals filed its candidate Cinryze in the US in August, while Jerini filed icatibant (proposed tradename Firazyr) in the US in October and in the EU last August. Pharming had a setback when its product Rhucin was rejected by the EU's CHMP in December (*Script* No 3322, p 21), but the firm has appealed the decision and plans to file Rhucin in the US later this year.

C1-INH, Cinryze and Rhucin are all C1-inhibitors, with the first two being derived from human plasma, while Rhucin is a transgenic product derived from rabbits' milk. Lev says its product goes through a further filtration process to eliminate contaminants, while Pharming says that Rhucin does not carry the same risk of contamination as plasma-derived products and is not limited by the availability of human blood.

Icatibant is a bradykinin B2 antagonist, working later in the inflammatory cascade – bradykinin is produced via kallikrein activation. Another candidate, Dyax's DX-88 (ecellantide), a plasma kallikrein inhibitor, is in a confirmatory Phase III trial.

C1-INH appears to compare well with the other candidates, which also had the primary endpoint of time to onset of symptom relief in clinical trials. This was 60 minutes with Rhucin versus 8.5 hours with placebo (*Script* No 3291, p 19), two hours for Cinryze versus over four hours with placebo (*Script* No 3283, p 21), and two hours with icatibant compared with 12 hours for tranexamic acid.

can result in fatalities when overdosed. Other approved cough products containing the narcotic ingredient are given every four to six hours, and the regulators continue to review safety information for those products.

Adverse event reports associated with Tussionex have included life-threatening side-effects and deaths in patients, including children, the regulators said. These reports reveal that physicians are sometimes prescribing, and patients are sometimes taking, more than the recommended dose or taking the medication more frequently than every 12 hours. The reports also show that Tussionex is sometimes prescribed or given to children less than six years old, for whom the medication is not approved.

Without careful measurement of the suspension, overdose can result in fatal respiratory depression. UCB has agreed to update the labelling to make it clear that Tussionex is contraindicated in children under six, and that accurate dosing is essential. The FDA urged that physicians and caregivers only use a medical syringe or other device designed to measure the suspension – and that household teaspoons or tablespoons vary in size and should not be used.

The company has said that five deaths have been reported in children under age six who took Tussionex since its approval in the US in 1987. Tussionex contains hydrocodone and the antihistamine chlorpheniramine in an extended-release form.

US liver warning for Prezista

Tibotec Therapeutics (Johnson & Johnson), in co-operation with the FDA, has alerted US doctors of changes to the "Warnings" section of the data sheet for its protease inhibitor, Prezista (darunavir), regarding the risk of hepatotoxicity. Prezista was introduced in the US in 2006 for the treatment of HIV/AIDS.

The alert was made in a Dear Healthcare Provider letter that has been posted on the FDA's Medwatch page. The letter notes that in clinical trials and postmarketing experience, drug-induced hepatitis (eg, acute hepatitis, cytolytic hepatitis) has been reported in patients receiving combination therapy with Prezista/ritonavir. Ritonavir is marketed by Abbott as Norvir.

The letter notes that the updated data sheet states under the heading "hepatotoxicity" that during clinical trials in 3,063 patients, drug-induced hepatitis was reported in 0.5% of patients receiving the combination. Patients with pre-existing liver dysfunction have an increased risk for liver function abnormalities.

That section of the data sheet now also notes: "Postmarketing cases of liver injury, including some fatalities, have been reported. These have generally occurred in patients with advanced HIV-1 disease taking multiple concomitant medications, having co-morbidities including hepatitis B or C co-infection, and/or developing immune reconstitution syndrome. A causal relationship with Prezista/ritonavir therapy has not been established." The number of postmarketing cases has not been provided in the updated label. Tibotec's letter states that appropriate laboratory tests should be conducted prior to initiating therapy with Prezista.

Swedish generics firms complain about substitution

The Swedish generic industry association, the FGL, has written to the Medical Products Agency complaining about the generic substitution list, which it says is becoming too restricted. A number of generic products have been excluded from the list because the MPA says they are not identical to the original, the FGL says.

Generic substitution was introduced in Sweden in October 2002. The MPA draws up a list of substitutable products, and pharmacists dispense the cheapest product they have in stock.

But the FGL says the system needs to be reviewed to ensure that the substitution criteria correspond with the intention of the law. It also wants the MPA to improve its communications with generics companies during the procedure for deciding on substitution status, in order to avoid obstacles to substitution.

It says the MPA has developed its own regulation separately from the original law, so that it is in charge of both the regulation and its implementation. The FGL points out that when generics companies applied for approval they assumed the products would also be added to the substitution list. Therefore it is important for the MPA to communicate if there are any problems, as this could affect the company's market prospects.

...examples

The FGL refers to two examples from a previous letter to the MPA: Nycomed's anti-epileptic, Gabapentin Nycomed (gabapentin), was not considered substitutable for Pfizer's Neurontin (gabapentin) for epilepsy. The agency said the product had a narrow therapeutic window and so it could not rule out the possibility that switching a patient from the original product to a generic could cause problems. The possibility that the prescriber might identify such risks in advance was limited.

Another was GEA's Fluconazol GEA (fluconazole), which was approved under the European mutual recognition procedure. The MPA decided not to list the product, saying differences in its labelling meant it was not substitutable for the originator, Pfizer's Diflucan. The general manager of GEA in Sweden, Hakan Josephsson, told *Script* that the labelling had now been changed and the product would be added to the substitution list. But if the MPA had told the company about this problem earlier on, it could have been resolved more quickly, he said.

The FGL says that in both cases it would have been better if the MPA had contacted the companies to inform them about the reasons for its decisions and to find a solution. The consequence of a restrictive substitution approach is less competition and therefore fewer saving opportunities for taxpayers, according to the association. "For the companies that market generics it means insecurity and the risk that investments will not yield economic returns," it says.

...agency reply

The agency said it would reply in writing or invite the FGL to a meeting to discuss the issue. It said the substitution regulation and the agency's overall criteria for the list had been published in 2002; the law said that only products that were medically equivalent should be added to the list. The agency had then developed its criteria for the listing

EMA looks at early detection of hepatotoxicity

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) is preparing guidance for the pharmaceutical industry on ways of detecting a product's hepatotoxicity potential before it enters clinical trials.

Liver injury is one of the most common reasons why approved drugs are withdrawn from the market, and over the past few years several products have been withdrawn or discussed by the agency's scientific advisory committee, the CHMP, for this reason, the EMA says. The CHMP's pharmacovigilance working party has discussed more than 20 products because of signs of liver damage.

None of the current guidelines looks at how to detect and collect early signals linked to drug-induced liver injury in non-clinical studies, and experience shows that using traditional reporting strategies may be insufficient to predict the outcome of serious adverse liver effects in humans, the agency notes.

It has therefore issued a concept paper as a first step towards developing a CHMP guideline on early detection of hepatotoxicity from non-clinical documentation. This will help industry and regulatory assessors to evaluate and interpret non-clinical data that could possibly serve as prognostic early signals. The draft guideline is expected to be discussed at the December meeting of the CHMP's safety working party.

■ Medicine spending up by 6.5% in Norway

Medicine spending in Norway grew by 6.5% to NOK4.8 billion (\$700 million) during the first six months of this year compared with the same period last year, according to Farmastat. The generics sector saw the strongest growth rate, with sales up by 8.8% to NOK596 million. Sales of parallel imports fell by 6% to NOK263 million. Sales of non-prescription products through pharmacies also declined, by 0.9% to NOK365 million, partly as a result of the liberalisation of the OTC market in Norway last year. Sales of medicines had slowed down in 2003, when the growth rate was only 3.3% compared with double digit growth rates in previous years (*Script* No 2948, p 8).

■ UK sales of athlete's foot products could grow by 16% this year

The switching of products to general sales list (GSL) status in the UK can have beneficial effects on pharmacy sales, according to Novartis Consumer Health. The switch of its Lamisil (terbinafine) 1% spray to GSL from August 1st combined with the switch of Lamisil 1% cream to GSL in March, is expected to contribute to an estimated 16% growth in the market for athlete's foot products this year, the company says. 70% of such sales are of GSL products, and 66% of GSL sales are in pharmacies, so pharmacies should benefit from the switch. The total UK market for athlete's foot products is estimated at £20.3 million.

■ EU pays more into Global Fund

The European Commission is to pay an additional €42 million to the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, bringing its total contribution since 2002 to €375 million, according to a statement to the Fund for 2002-2006.

—Cont.

rued During the Premarketing Evaluation of his section reports event frequencies evaluated 1988 for adverse events occurring in a group of 1800 patients who took multiple doses of the conditions and duration of exposure to ed greatly, involving well-controlled studies as sience in open and uncontrolled clinical set- absence of appropriate controls in some of the usual relationship between these events and its peroxide cannot be determined.

ng enumeration by organ system describes
ms of their relative frequency of reporting in
e. Events of major clinical importance are also
the Warnings and Precautions sections.
g definitions of frequency are used: frequent ad-
e are defined as those occurring in at least 1/100
requent adverse events are those occurring in
100 patients; rare events are those occurring in
1/1000 patients.

Hota — *Frequent*: headache, asthenia, accidemia, abdominal pain, chest pain, back pain, flu, neck pain, fever; *Infrequent*: facial edema, chills, dometen, malaise, neoplasm, hernia, pelvic pain, litis, monilliasis, abscess, jaw pain, hypothercutic abdominal syndrome, LE syndrome.

lar System = **Frequent:** postural hypotension, pertension, palpitations, vasodilatations, con-
rt failure; **Infrequent:** myocardial infarction,
heart arrest, abnormal electrocardiogram, an-
s, thrombophlebitis, bradycardia, ventricular
s, cerebrovascular accident, ventricular tachy-
brad ischemia, atrial fibrillation, varicose vein,
embolus, AV block, shock; **Rare:** vasculitis, pul-
sion, pericarditis, migraine, heart block,
norrhase.

stom — **Frequent:** nausea, vomiting, dyspepsia, constipation, dry mouth, dysphagia; **In/frequent:** abnormal liver function tests, increased appetite, no enlargement, thirst, gastroenteritis, gastritis, ulcers, intestinal obstruction, nausea and vomiting, esophagitis, cholelithiasis, tooth caries, omphal. ulcer, melena, hepatomegaly, hematemesis; **Rare:** sialadenitis, peptic ulcer, pancreatitis, glossitis, fecal incontinence, duodenitis, colitis, aphthous stomatitis, esophageal ulcer.

System — **In/frequent:** hypothyroidism, adenoma, alitius, ADH inappropriate; **Rare:** endocrine disorder, adenoma.

Lymphatic System — *Frequent:* anemias; *Infrequent:* aplasia, lymphadenopathy, leukocytosis, thrombocytopenia, megaloblastic anemia, cyanosis, splenomegaly, petechia, lymphocytosis, eosinophilia, thrombocytosis, lymphoblastic leukemia, polycythemia, splenomegaly.

End Nutritional System — *Frequent:* peripheral neuropathy, weight gain; *Infrequent:* dehydration, weight loss, hypoglycemia, iron deficiency anemia, hyperuricemia, gout, hypercholesterolemia; *Rare:* electrolyte imbalance, acidosis, hyperuricemia.

Cardiac System — *Frequent:* tachycardia, myocardial infarction, congestive heart failure, pericarditis.

Infrequent: bone pain, tenosynovitis, myositis, arthritis, Rube: osteoporosis, muscle atrophy.

stem — **Frequent:** dyskinesia, dizziness, hallucination, somnolence, insomnia, dystonia, paresis, tension, anxiety, tremor, akathisia, extrapyramidalism, abnormal gait, abnormal dream, abnormal personality disorder, abnormal behavior, abnormal personality, abnormal affect, abnormal reaction, abnormal reaction.

Infrequent: akathisia, neuropathy, euphoria, delusions, convulsion, libido increased, vulva sexual activity, libido decreased, vertigo, myoclonus, paralysis, neurosis, hyperkinesia, ataxia, syndrome, torticollis, meningitis, manic reaction, hostility, agitation, hypotension, Rube: strabismus, intracranial hypertension, hemiplegia, facial edema, myelitis, hallucinations and confusion, heart dysrhythmia.

System — *Frequent:* rhinitis, dyspnea, pneumonia, cough increased; *Infrequent:* epistaxis, bronchitis, voice alteration, hemoptysis, edema, pleural effusion, laryngitis, emphysema, hyperventilation; *Rare:* pneumothorax, laryngeal edema, hypoxia, hypoventilation, hemothorax.

[illegible]

hemorrhage, vaginitis, priapism, kidney calculus, fibrocystic breast, lactation, uterine hemorrhage, urolithiasis, salpingitis, pyuria, metrorrhagia, menopause, kidney failure, breast carcinoma, cervical carcinoma; *Rare*: amenorrhea, bladder carcinoma, breast engorgement, epididymitis, hypogonadism, leukorrhea, nephrosis, pyelonephritis, urethral pain, uricaciduria, withdrawn bleeding.

Postintroduction Reports — Voluntary reports of adverse events temporally associated with pergolide that have been received since market introduction and which may have no causal relationship with the drug, include the following: neuroleptic malignant syndrome and Raynaud's phenomenon.

OVERDOSAGE

There is no local experience with massive overdosage. The largest overdose involved a young schizophrenic adult patient who was not being treated with pergolide but who intentionally took 60 mg of the drug. He experienced vomiting, hypotension, and agitation. Another patient receiving a daily dosage of 7 mg of pergolide unintentionally took 19 mg/day for 3 days, after which his vital signs were normal but he experienced severe tremor. The patient's blood levels of the prescribed dosage level, the hallucinations stopped. One patient unintentionally took 14 mg/day for 25 days instead of her prescribed 1.4 mg/day dosage. She experienced severe involuntary movements and tingling in her arms and legs. Another patient who inadvertently received 7 mg instead of the prescribed 0.7 mg experienced palpitations, hypotension, and ventricular extrasystoles. The highest total daily dose (prescribed for several patients with refractory Parkinson's disease) can exceed

Symptoms — Animal studies indicate that the manifestations of overdosage in man might include nausea, vomiting, convulsions, decreased blood pressure, and CNS stimulation. The oral median lethal doses in mice and rats were 54 and 15 mg/kg respectively.

Treatment — To obtain up-to-date information about the treatment of overdose, a good resource is your certified Regional Poison Control Center. Telephone numbers of certified poison control centers are listed in the *Physicians' Desk Reference* (PDR). In managing overdosage, consider the possibility of multiple drug overdoses, interaction among drugs, and unusual drug kinetics in your patient.

Management of overdose may require supportive measures to maintain arterial blood pressure. Cardiac function should be monitored; an antiarrhythmic agent may be necessary. If signs of CNS stimulation are present, a phenothiazine or other butyrophenone neuroleptic agent may be indicated; the efficacy of such drugs in reversing the effects of overdose has not been assessed.

Protect the patient's airway and support ventilation and perfusion. Meticulously monitor and maintain, within acceptable limits, the patient's vital signs, blood gases, serum electrolytes, etc. Absorption of drugs from the gastrointestinal tract may be decreased by giving activated charcoal, which, in many cases, is more effective than emesis or lavage; consider charcoal instead of or in addition to gastric emptying. Repeated doses of charcoal over time may hasten elimination of some drugs that have been absorbed. Safeguard the patient's airway when employing gastric emptying or charcoal.

There is no experience with dialysis or hemoperfusion, and these procedures are unlikely to be of benefit.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Administration of Permax should be initiated with a daily dosage of 0.05 mg for the first 2 days. The dosage should then be gradually increased by 0.1 or 0.15 mg/day every third day over the next 12 days of therapy. The dosage may then be increased by 0.25 mg/day every third day until an optimal therapeutic dosage is achieved.

Permax is usually administered in divided doses 3 times per day. During dosage titration, the dosage of concurrent L-dopa/carbidopa may be cautiously decreased.

In clinical studies, the mean therapeutic daily dosage of Permax was 3 mg/day. The average concurrent daily dosage of *l*-dopa/carbidopa (expressed as *l*-dopa) was approximately 650 mg/day. The efficacy of Permax at doses above 5 mg/day has not been systematically evaluated. Doses of pergolide above 5 mg/day are not recommended (see WARNINGS).

HOW SUPPLIE

Tablets (modified rectangle shape, scored):
0.05 mg, ivory, debossed with A 024, in bottles of 100 (UCS336) — NDC 0187-0839-01
0.25 mg, green, debossed with A 025, in bottles of 100 (UCS337) — NDC 0187-0840-02
1 mg, pink, debossed with A 026, in bottles of 100 (UCS338) — NDC 0187-0841-02

Store at 25°C (77°F); excursions permitted to 15°C-30°C (59°F-86°F) [see USP Controlled Room Temperature]. PERMAX is a registered trademark of Eli Lilly and Company, and licensed in the US to Valeant Pharmaceuticals North America.

TASMAR®
(telapressa)

TABLETS

Before prescribing TASMAR, the physician should be thoroughly familiar with the details of this prescribing information.

TASMAR SHOULD NOT BE USED BY PATIENTS UNTIL THERE HAS BEEN A COMPLETE DISCUSSION OF THE RISKS AND THE PATIENT HAS PROVIDED WRITTEN AGREEMENT AND KNOWLEDGE THAT THE RISKS HAVE BEEN EXPLAINED (SEE PATIENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISKS SECTION).

WARNING

Because of the risk of potentially fatal, acute fulminant liver failure, TASMAR (tolcapone) should ordinarily be used in patients with Parkinson's disease on L-dopa/carbidopa who are experiencing symptom fluctuations and are not responding satisfactorily to or are not appropriate candidates for other adjunctive therapies (see INDICATIONS and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION sections).

Because of the risk of liver injury and because TASMAR, when it is effective, provides an observable symptomatic benefit, the patient who fails to show substantial clinical benefit within 3 weeks of initiation of treatment, should be withdrawn from TASMAR.

TASMAR therapy should not be initiated if the patient exhibits clinical evidence of liver disease or two SGPT/ALT or SGOT/AST values greater than the upper limit of normal. Patients with severe dyskinesia or dystonia should be treated with caution (see PRECAUTIONS: Rhabdomyolysis).

Patients who develop evidence of hepatocellular injury while on TASMAR and are withdrawn from the drug for any reason may be at increased risk for liver injury if TASMAR is reintroduced. Accordingly, such patients

TASMAIR is reintroduced. Accordingly, such patients should be carefully monitored for signs of liver failure. Cases of severe hepatic cellular injury, including fulminant liver failure resulting in death, have been reported in postmarketing use. As of May 2006, 3 cases of fatal fulminant hepatic failure have been reported from more than 40,000 patient years of worldwide use. This incidence may be 10- to 100-fold higher than the background incidence in the general population. Underreporting of cases may lead to significant underestimation of the increased risk associated with the use of TASMAIR. All 3 cases were reported within the first 3 months of treatment with TASMAIR. A detailed analysis of the laboratory monitoring data in over 3,400 TASMAIR-treated patients participating in clinical trials indicated that increases in SGPT/ALT or SGOT/AST when present, generally occurred within the first 3 months of treatment with TASMAIR.

A prescriber who elects to use TASMAR in face of the increased risk of liver injury is strongly advised to monitor patients for evidence of emergent liver injury. Patients should be advised of the need for self-monitoring for both the classical signs of liver disease (e.g., clay-colored stools, jaundice) and the nonspecific signs (e.g.,

Although a program of periodic laboratory monitoring for evidence of hepatocellular injury is recommended, it is not clear that periodic monitoring of liver enzymes will prevent the occurrence of fulminant liver failure. However, it is generally believed that early detection of drug-induced hepatic injury along with immediate withdrawal of the suspect drug enhances the likelihood for recovery. Accordingly, the following liver monitoring

ing product is recommended. In the treatment of TASMAR, the physician should conduct appropriate tests to exclude the presence of liver disease. In patients determined to be appropriate candidates for treatment with TASMAR, serum glutamic-pyruvic transaminase (SGPT) and serum glutamic-oxaloacetic transaminase (SGOT/AST) levels should be determined at baseline and periodically (e.g., every 2 to 4 weeks) for the first 6 months of therapy. After the first six months, periodic monitoring is recommended at intervals deemed clinically relevant. Although more frequent monitoring increases the chances of early detection, the precise schedule for monitoring is a matter of clinical judgment. If the dose is increased from 300 to 600 mg, the physician (see ADMINISTRATION section), liver enzyme monitoring should take place before increasing the dose and then be conducted every 2 to 4 weeks for the following 6 months of therapy. After six months, periodic monitoring is recommended at intervals deemed clinically relevant.

TASMAN should be discontinued if SGPT/ALT/AST levels exceed 2 times the upper limit of normal or if clinical signs and symptoms suggest the onset of hepatic dysfunction (persistent nausea, fatigue, lethargy, anorexia, jaundice, dark urine, pruritus, and right upper quadrant tenderness).

1. Treatment at Hypocalcemia and Overdose in Patients on Hemodialysis

General treatment of hypocalcemia (greater than 1 mg/dL above the upper limit of normal range) consists of immediate discontinuation of Calcijex® therapy, institution of a low calcium diet and withdrawal of calcium supplements. Serum calcium levels should be determined daily until normocalcemia ensues. Hypocalcemia usually resolves in two to seven days. When serum calcium levels have returned to within normal limits, Calcijex therapy may be reinstituted at a dose 0.5 mg less than prior therapy. Serum calcium levels should be obtained at least twice weekly after all dosage changes.

Persistent or markedly elevated serum calcium levels may be corrected by dialysis against a calcium dialysate.

2. Treatment of Accidental Overdose of Calcijex Injection

The treatment of acute accidental overdose of Calcijex® should consist of general supportive measures. Serial serum electrolyte determinations (especially calcium), rate of urinary calcium excretion and assessment of electrocardiographic abnormalities due to hypocalcemia should be obtained. Such monitoring is critical in patients receiving dialysis. Discontinuation of supplemental calcium and low calcium diet are also indicated in accidental overdose. Due to the relatively short duration of the pharmacological action of calcitriol, further measures are probably unnecessary. Should, however, persistent and markedly elevated serum calcium levels occur, there are a variety of therapeutic alternatives which may be considered, depending on the patient's underlying condition. These include the use of drugs such as phosphates and corticosteroids as well as measures to induce an appropriate forced diuresis. In patients on hemodialysis against a calcium-free dialysate has also been reported.

DOSEAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

The optimal dose of Calcijex® (calcitriol injection) must be carefully determined for each patient. The effectiveness of Calcijex® therapy is predicated on the assumption that each patient is receiving an adequate and appropriate daily intake of calcium. The RDA for calcium in adults is 800 mg. To ensure that each patient receives an adequate daily intake of calcium, the physician should either prescribe a calcium supplement or instruct the patient in proper dietary measures.

The recommended initial dose of Calcijex®, depending on the severity of the hypocalcemia and/or secondary hyperparathyroidism, is 1 mg (0.02 mcg/kg) to 2 mg administered three times weekly, with or without calcium supplements as small as 0.5 mg and as large as 4 mg three times weekly have been used as an initial dose. If a satisfactory response is not observed, the dose may be increased by 0.5 to 1 mg at two to four week intervals. During this titration period, serum calcium and phosphorus levels should be obtained at least twice weekly. If hypocalcemia or a serum calcium plus phosphate product greater than 70 is noted, the drug should be immediately discontinued until these parameters are appropriate. Then, the Calcijex® dose should be reinstituted at a lower dose. Doses may need to be reduced as the PTH levels decrease in response to the therapy. Thus, incremental dosing must be individualized and commensurate with PTH, serum calcium and phosphorus levels. The following is a suggested approach in dose titration:

PTH Levels	Calcijex® Dose
the same or increasing	increase
decreasing by <30%	increase
decreasing by +30%, < 60%	maintain
decreasing by +60%	decrease
one and one-half to three times the upper limit of normal	maintain

Parenteral drug products should be inspected visually for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration, whenever solution and container permit. Discard unused portion.

HOW SUPPLIED

Calcijex® (calcitriol injection) is supplied as follows:

List	Container	Concentration	Fil
8110	Ampul	1 mg/mL	1 mL

Protect from light.

Store at controlled room temperature 15° to 30°C (59° to 86°F).

Patent Pending.

Ref. EN 0249 Rev September, 2004

Middlebury, Inc., Lake Forest, IL 60045 USA
 ABER LABORATORIES, NORTH CHICAGO, IL 60064 USA

DEPAKOTE® ER
 (a salt)
 (divalproex sodium)
 extended-release tablets

BOX WARNING

HEPATOOTOXICITY

HEPATIC FAILURE RESULTING IN FATALITIES HAS OCCURRED IN PATIENTS RECEIVING VALPROIC ACID AND ITS DERIVATIVES. EXPERIENCE HAS INDICATED THAT CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF TWO YEARS ARE AT A CONSIDERABLY INCREASED RISK OF DEVELOPING FATAL HEPATOOTOXICITY, ESPECIALLY THOSE ON MULTIPLE ANTICONVULSANTS, THOSE WITH CONGENITAL METABOLIC DISORDERS, THOSE WITH SEVERE SEIZURE DISORDERS ACCOMPANIED BY MENTAL RETARDATION, AND THOSE WITH ORGANIC BRAIN DISEASE. WHEN DEPAKOTE IS USED IN THIS PATIENT GROUP, IT SHOULD BE USED WITH EXTREME CAUTION AND AS A SOLE AGENT. THE BENEFITS OF THERAPY SHOULD BE WEIGHED AGAINST THE RISKS ABOVE THIS AGE GROUP. EXPERIENCE IN EPILEPSY HAS INDICATED THAT THE INCIDENCE OF FATAL HEPATOOTOXICITY DECREASES CONSIDERABLY IN PROGRESSIVELY OLDER PATIENT GROUPS. THESE INCIDENTS USUALLY HAVE OCCURRED DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF TREATMENT. SERIOUS OR FATAL HEPATOOTOXICITY MAY BE PRECEDED BY NON-SPECIFIC SYMPTOMS SUCH AS MALAISE, WEAKNESS, LETHARGY, FATAL EDEMA, ANOREXIA, AND VOMITING. IN PATIENTS WITH EPILEPSY, A LOSS OF SEIZURE CONTROL MAY ALSO OCCUR. PATIENTS SHOULD BE MONITORED CLOSELY FOR APPEARANCE OF THESE SYMPTOMS. LIVER FUNCTION TESTS SHOULD BE PERFORMED PRIOR TO THERAPY AND AT FREQUENT INTERVALS THEREAFTER, ESPECIALLY DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS.

TERATOGENICITY

VALPROIC ACID CAN PRODUCE TERATOGENIC EFFECTS SUCH AS NEURAL TUBE DEFECTS (E.G., SPINA BIFIDA). ACCORDINGLY, THE USE OF DEPAKOTE TABLETS IN WOMEN OF CHILD-BEARING POTENTIAL REQUIRES THAT THE BENEFITS OF ITS USE BE WEIGHED AGAINST THE RISK OF INJURY TO THE FETUS. THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT WHEN THE TREATMENT OF A SPONTANEOUSLY REVERSIBLE CONDITION NOT ORDINARILY ASSOCIATED WITH PERMANENT INJURY OR RISK OF DEATH (E.G., MIGRAINE) IS CONTEMPLATED. SEE WARNINGS, INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS.

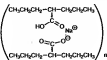
AN INFORMATION SHEET DESCRIBING THE TERATOGENIC POTENTIAL OF VALPROATE IS AVAILABLE FOR PATIENTS.

PANCREATITIS

CASES OF LIFE-THREATENING PANCREATITIS HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN BOTH CHILDREN AND ADULTS RECEIVING VALPROATE. SOME OF THESE CASES HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED AS HEMORRHAGIC WITH A RAPID PROGRESSION FROM INITIAL SYMPTOMS TO DEATH. CASES HAVE BEEN REPORTED SHORTLY AFTER INITIAL USE AS WELL AS AFTER SEVERAL YEARS OF THERAPY. PATIENTS AND GUARDIANS SHOULD BE WARNED THAT ABDOMINAL PAIN, NAUSEA, VOMITING, ANOREXIA, AND/OR ANOREXIA CAN BE SYMPTOMS OF PANCREATITIS THAT REQUIRE PROMPT MEDICAL EVALUATION. IF PANCREATITIS IS DIAGNOSED, TREATMENT SHOULD ORIGINALLY BE DISCONTINUED. ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT FOR THE UNDERLYING MEDICAL CONDITION SHOULD BE INITIATED AS CLINICALLY INDICATED. (See WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS.)

DESCRIPTION

Divalproex sodium is a stable co-salt compound comprised of sodium valproate and valproic acid in a 1:1 molar relationship and formed during the partial neutralization of valproic acid with sodium hydroxide. Chemically it is designated as sodium hydrogen bis(2-propylpentanoate). Divalproex sodium has the following structure:



Divalproex sodium occurs as a white powder with a characteristic odor.

DEPAKOTE ER 250 and 500 mg tablets are for oral administration. DEPAKOTE ER tablets contain divalproex sodium in a once-a-day extended-release formulation equivalent to 250 and 500 mg of valproic acid.

Inactive Ingredients

DEPAKOTE ER 250 and 500 mg tablets: FD&C Blue No. 1, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, ethylene glycol, potassium sorbate, propylene glycol, silicon dioxide, titanium dioxide, and triacetin.

In addition, 500 mg tablets contain iron oxide and polyethylene glycol.

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Pharmacodynamics

Disproportionately disproportionate to the valproate ion in the gastrointestinal tract. The mechanisms by which valproate exerts its therapeutic effects have not been established. It is not known whether the drug is absorbed under increased blood concentrations of gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA).

Pharmacokinetics

Absorption/Bioavailability

The absolute bioavailability of DEPAKOTE ER tablets administered as a single dose after a meal was approximately 70% relative to the bioavailability of valproic acid. When given in equal total daily doses, the bioavailability of DEPAKOTE ER is less than that of DEPAKOTE (divalproex sodium delayed-release tablets). In five multiple-dose studies in healthy subjects (N=80) and in subjects with epilepsy (N=86), when administered under fasting and nonfasting conditions, DEPAKOTE ER given once daily produced an average bioavailability of 89% relative to an equal total daily dose of DEPAKOTE. After multiple-dose treatment, the median time to maximum plasma valproate concentrations (C_{max}) after DEPAKOTE ER administration ranged from 4 to 10 hours. The median time to maximum plasma valproate ER, the peak-to-trough fluctuation in plasma valproate concentrations was 10-15% lower than that of regular DEPAKOTE given BID, TID, or QID.

Conversion from DEPAKOTE to DEPAKOTE ER

When DEPAKOTE ER is given in doses 8 to 20% higher than the total daily dose of DEPAKOTE, the two formulations are bioequivalent. In two randomized, crossover studies, multiple daily doses of DEPAKOTE were compared to 8 to 20% higher doses of DEPAKOTE ER. In these two studies, DEPAKOTE ER and DEPAKOTE regimens were equivalent with respect to area under the curve (AUC), measures of the extent of bioavailability, and maximum plasma valproate C_{max} was lower, and C_{min} was either higher or not different, for DEPAKOTE ER relative to DEPAKOTE regimens (see table at end of next page).

Concomitant Antiepileptic Drug (topiramate, phenobarbital, and phenytoin) Interactions (see PRECAUTIONS, listed)

that induces the cytochrome P450 isozyme system did not significantly alter valproate bioavailability when co-administered with DEPAKOTE and DEPAKOTE ER.

Distribution

Protein Binding

The plasma protein binding of valproate is concentration dependent and the free fraction increases from approximately 10% at 40 µg/mL to 18.5% at 130 µg/mL. Protein binding of valproate is reduced in the elderly in patients with chronic hepatic disease, in patients with renal impairment, and in the presence of other drugs (e.g., aspirin). Conversely, valproate may displace certain protein-bound drugs (e.g., phenytoin, carbamazepine, warfarin, and tolbutamide) (see PRECAUTIONS - Drug Interactions for more detailed information on the pharmacokinetic interactions of valproate with other drugs).

CNS Distribution

Valproate concentrations in cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) approximate unbound concentrations in plasma (about 10% of total concentration).

Metabolism

Valproate is metabolized almost entirely by the liver. In adult patients on monotherapy, 30-50% of administered dose appears in urine as a glucuronide conjugate. Mitochondrial β -oxidation is the other major metabolic pathway, typically accounting for over 40% of the dose. Usually, less than 15-20% of the dose is eliminated by other oxidative mechanisms. Less than 3% of an administered dose is excreted unchanged in urine.

The relationship between dose and total valproate concentration is nonlinear; concentration does not increase proportionally with the dose, but rather, increases to a lesser extent due to saturable plasma protein binding. The kinetics of unbound drug are linear.

Elimination

Mean plasma clearance and volume of distribution for total valproate are 0.58 L/hr/m² and 0.1 L/1.73 m², respectively. Mean plasma clearance and volume of distribution for free valproate are 4 L/hr/1.73 m² and 0.9 L/1.73 m². Mean terminal half-life for valproate monotherapy ranged from 9 to 16 hours following oral and oral regimens of 250 to 1000 mg.

The estimates cited apply primarily to patients who are not taking drugs that affect hepatic metabolizing enzyme systems. For example, patients taking enzyme inducing anti-epileptic drugs (carbamazepine, phenytoin, and phenobarbital).

Zemlar Injection—Cont.

REFERENCES

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2. Abbott 2005.
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4. Revised September, 2005.
5. Manufactured by Hospira, Inc., Lake Forest, IL 60045 USA.
6. For About Laboratories: North Chicago, IL 60064, U.S.A. Information on the Abbott pharmaceutical products listed on these pages is from the prescribing information in use as of June 1, 2007. For more information, please visit rabbott.com or call 1-800-653-9110.

Actelion Pharmaceuticals US, Inc.

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Direct Inquiries to:
Actelion Medical Information
866-225-5546
(follow the prompts)

TRACLEER®

(irbesartan tablets)

62.5 mg and 125 mg film-coated tablets

Use of TRACLEER requires attention to two significant concerns: 1) potential for serious liver injury, and 2) potential damage to a fetus.

WARNING: Potential Liver Injury

TRACLEER causes at least 3-fold upper limit of normal (ULN) elevation of liver aminotransferases (ALT and AST) in about 11% of patients, accompanied by elevated bilirubin in a small number of cases. Because these changes are a marker for potential serious liver injury, serum aminotransferase levels must be monitored prior to initiation of treatment and then monthly thereafter. TRACLEER should be discontinued if ALT and/or AST are elevated to 3 times the upper limit of normal (ULN) in the setting of close monitoring, rare cases of unexplained hepatic cirrhosis were reported after prolonged (≥ 12 months) therapy with TRACLEER in patients with multiple co-morbidities and drug therapies. There have also been rare reports of liver failure. The contribution of TRACLEER in these cases could not be excluded.

In at least one case the initial presentation (after > 20 months of treatment) included pronounced elevations in aminotransferase and bilirubin levels accompanied by non-specific symptoms, all of which resolved shortly after discontinuation of TRACLEER. This case reinforces the importance of strict adherence to the monthly monitoring schedule for the duration of treatment and the treatment algorithm, which includes stopping TRACLEER with a rise of aminotransferase accompanied by signs or symptoms of liver dysfunction (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION). Elevations in aminotransferase require close attention (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

TRACLEER should generally be avoided in patients with elevated aminotransferases (≥ 3 × ULN) at baseline because monitoring liver injury may be difficult. If liver aminotransferase elevations are accompanied by clinical symptoms of liver injury (such as nausea, vomiting, fever, abdominal pain, jaundice, or unusual lethargy or fatigue) or increases in bilirubin ≥ 2 × ULN, treatment should be stopped. There is no experience with the re-initiation of TRACLEER in these circumstances.

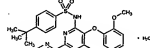
CONTRAINDICATION: Pregnancy

TRACLEER (irbesartan) is very likely to produce major birth defects if used by pregnant women, as this effect has been seen consistently when it is administered to pregnant animals (see CONTRAINDICATION). Therefore, pregnancy must be excluded before the start of treatment with TRACLEER and prevented thereafter by the use of a reliable method of contraception. Hormonal contraceptives, including oral, injectable, transdermal, and implantable contraceptives, should be used as the sole means of contraception because these may not be effective in patients receiving TRACLEER (see CONTRAINDICATION). Therefore, effective contraception through additional forms of contraception must be practiced. Monthly pregnancy tests should be obtained. Because of potential liver injury and in an effort to make the chance of fetal exposure to TRACLEER (irbesartan) as small as possible, TRACLEER should be prescribed only through this TRACLEER Access Program by calling 1-866-228-3546. Adverse events can also be reported directly via this number.

DESCRIPTION

Irbesartan is the first of a new drug class, an endothelin receptor antagonist.

TRACLEER (irbesartan) belongs to a class of highly substituted pyrimidine derivatives, with an chiral center. It is designated chemically as 4-tert-butyl-N-[6-(2-hydroxyethyl)-5-(2-methoxyphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyridin-4-yl]-2-methyl-1H-imidazole-5-carboxamide monohydrate, with the following structural formula:



Irbesartan has a molecular weight of 569.64 and a molecular formula of $C_{28}H_{35}N_5O_5 \cdot H_2O$. Irbesartan is a white to yellow powder. It is poorly soluble in water (1.0 mg/100 mL) and in aqueous solutions at low pH (0.1 mg/100 mL) at pH 1 and 4.0, 0.2 mg/100 mL at pH 6.0. Solubility increases at higher pH values (4.0 mg/100 mL at pH 7.6). In the solid state, irbesartan is very stable, is not hygroscopic and is not light sensitive.

TRACLEER is available as 62.5 mg and 125 mg film-coated tablets for oral administration, and contains the following excipients: corn starch, pregelatinized starch, dicalcium phosphate, polyvinylpyrrolidone, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, croscarmellose, polyethylene glycol, hydroxypropylcellulose, titanium dioxide, iron oxide yellow, iron oxide red, and ethylcellulose. Each TRACLEER 62.5 mg tablet contains 129.00 mg of irbesartan, equivalent to 62.5 mg of only drug substance. Each TRACLEER 125 mg tablet contains 258.00 mg of irbesartan, equivalent to 125 mg of anhydrous irbesartan.

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Mechanism of Action

Endothelin (ET) is a neurohormone, the effects of which are mediated by binding to ET_A and ET_B receptors in the cardiovascular system. ET_A receptors are found in the endothelium and vascular smooth muscle, and ET_B receptors are elevated in plasma and lung tissue of patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension, suggesting a pathogenic role for ET in this disease. Irbesartan is a specific and

competitive antagonist at endothelin receptor types ET_A and ET_B. Irbesartan has a slightly higher affinity for ET_A receptors than for ET_B receptors.

Pharmacokinetics

General

After oral administration, maximum plasma concentrations of irbesartan are achieved within 3–5 hours and the terminal elimination half-life ($t_{1/2}$) is about 3 hours in healthy subjects. The exposure to irbesartan after intravenous and oral administration is about 2-fold greater in adult patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension than in healthy adult subjects.

Absorption and Distribution

The absolute bioavailability of irbesartan in normal volunteers is about 50% and is unaffected by food. The volume of distribution is about 18 L. Irbesartan is highly bound (> 98%) to plasma proteins, mainly albumin. Irbesartan does not penetrate into erythrocytes.

Metabolism and Elimination

Irbesartan has three metabolites, one of which is pharmacologically active and may contribute 10%–30% of the effect. Irbesartan is an inducer of CYP2C9 and CYP3A4 and possibly also of CYP2C19. Total clearance after a single intravenous dose is about 4 L/hr in patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension. Upon multiple dosing, plasma concentrations in healthy adults decrease gradually to 60–65% of those seen after single dose administration, probably the effect of autoinduction of the eliminating liver enzymes. Steady-state is reached within 3–5 days. Irbesartan is eliminated by biliary excretion following metabolism in the liver. Less than 3% of an administered oral dose is recovered in urine.

Special Populations

It is not known whether irbesartan's pharmacokinetics is influenced by gender, body weight, race, or age.

Liver Function Impairment

Irbesartan in vivo evidence showing extensive hepatic metabolism of irbesartan suggests that liver impairment may significantly increase exposure of irbesartan. In a study comparing 8 patients with mild liver impairment (as indicated by the Child-Pugh method) to 8 controls, the single- and multiple-dose pharmacokinetics of irbesartan were not altered in patients with mild hepatic impairment. The influence of moderate or severe liver impairment on the pharmacokinetics of irbesartan has not been studied. Irbesartan should generally be avoided in patients with moderate or severe liver abnormalities unless elevated aminotransferase ≥ 3 × ULN (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION) and WARNINGS.

Renal Impairment

In patients with severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance 15–30 mL/min), plasma concentrations of irbesartan were markedly unchanged and plasma concentrations of the three metabolites were increased. Irbesartan should be used with caution in patients with renal impairment. These differences do not appear to be clinically important (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension

Two randomized, double-blind, multi-center, placebo-controlled trials were conducted in 32 and 213 patients. The larger study (BREATHE-1) compared 2 doses (125 mg b.i.d. and 250 mg b.i.d.) of TRACLEER with placebo. The smaller study (Study S31) compared 125 mg b.i.d. with placebo. Patients had severe (WHO functional Class III–IV) pulmonary arterial hypertension: primary pulmonary hypertension (72%) or pulmonary hypertension secondary to autologous disease (28%). There were no patients with pulmonary hypertension secondary to other conditions such as HIV disease, or recurrent pulmonary emboli. In both studies, TRACLEER or placebo was added to patients' current therapy, which could have included a combination of nitroglycerin, endothelin antagonists, and vasodilators (e.g., calcium channel blockers, ACE inhibitors), but not digoxin. TRACLEER was given at a dose of 62.5 mg b.i.d. for 4 weeks and then at 125 mg b.i.d. or 250 mg b.i.d. for either 12 (BREATHE-1) or 8 (Study S31) additional weeks. The primary study endpoint was 6-minute walk distance. In addition, clinical symptoms and functional status were assessed. Hemodynamic measurements were made at 12 weeks in Study S31. The mean age was about 40 years. About 80% of patients were female, and about 80% were Caucasian. Patients had been diagnosed with pulmonary hypertension for a mean of 2.4 years.

Submaximal Exercise Capacity

Results of the 6-minute walk distance at 3 months (Study S31) or 4 months (BREATHE-1) are shown in Table 1. In both trials, treatment with TRACLEER resulted in a significant increase in exercise capacity. The improvement in walk distance was apparent after 1 month of treatment (with 62.5 mg b.i.d.) and fully developed by about 2 months of treatment (Figure 1). There was no trend for patients of months of double-blind treatment. Walking distance was somewhat greater with 250 mg b.i.d. but the potential for increased liver injury caused this dose to be discontinued (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION). There were no apparent differences in treatment effects on walk distance among subgroups analyzed by demographic fac-

tors, baseline studies had



Change from baseline (m) over time (weeks)

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Distance in meters: mean ± standard deviation. Changes are at week 12 for BREATHE-1 and at week 12 for Study S31.

*p < 0.01; by Wilcoxon.

**p < 0.0001; for 250 mg by Wilcoxon.

***p < 0.02; by Student's t-test.

Information will be superseded by supplements and subsequent editions

Amevive—Cont.

Malignancies

In the 24-week period constituting the first course of placebo-controlled study, 13 malignancies were diagnosed in 11 AMEVIVE-treated patients. The incidence of malignancies was 1.3% (1/876) for AMEVIVE-treated patients compared to 0.5% (5/1413) for the placebo group. Among 1569 patients who received AMEVIVE at any dose in clinical trials, 43 patients were diagnosed with 43 treatment-emergent malignancies. The majority of the malignancies were non-melanoma skin cancers: 46 cases (20 basal cell, 26 squamous cell carcinoma) in 27 patients. Other malignancies observed in AMEVIVE-treated patients included melanoma (n=3), solid organ malignancies (n=12 in 11 patients), and lymphomas (n=6), the latter consisted of two Hodgkin's lymphoma, one non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and one cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (mycosis fungoides).

Infections

In the 24-week period constituting the first course of placebo-controlled studies, serious infections (infections requiring hospitalization) were seen at a rate of 0.9% (6/678) in AMEVIVE-treated patients and 0.8% (14/1413) in the placebo group. In patients receiving repeated courses of AMEVIVE therapy, the rates of serious infections remained similar across courses of therapy. Serious infections among 1569 AMEVIVE-treated patients included cellulitis, abscesses, wound infections, toxic shock, pneumonia, appendicitis, cholecystitis, gastroenteritis and herpes infections.

Hypersensitivity Reactions

In clinical studies, 4 of 1869 (0.2%) patients were reported to experience angioedema; two of these patients were hospitalized. In the 24-week period constituting the first course of placebo-controlled studies, urticaria was reported in 0.1% (1/1413) AMEVIVE-treated patients vs. 0.1% (1/1413) in the placebo group. Urticaria resulted in discontinuation of therapy in one of the AMEVIVE-treated patients.

Hepatic Injury

In post-marketing experience there have been reports of asymptomatic transaminase elevations, elevations in the liver, hepatitis, and severe liver failure (see PRECAUTIONS, hepatic injury).

In the 24-week period constituting the first course of placebo-controlled studies, 1.7% (15/876) of AMEVIVE-treated patients and 1.2% (5/1413) of the placebo group completed ALT and/or AST elevations of at least 3 times the upper limit of normal.

Injection Site Reactions

In the intramuscular study (Study 2), 16% of AMEVIVE-treated patients and 8% of placebo-treated patients reported injection site reactions. In patients receiving repeated courses of AMEVIVE IM therapy, the incidence of injection site reactions remained similar across courses of therapy. Reactions at the site of injection were generally mild, typically occurred on single injections, and included either pain (7%), inflammation (4%), bleeding (4%), edema (2%), non-specific reaction (2%), nodule (1%), skin discoloration (1%). In the clinical trial, a single case of injection site reaction led to the discontinuation of AMEVIVE.

Immunogenicity

Approximately 3% (40/1357) of patients receiving AMEVIVE developed low-titer antibodies to interferon. No apparent correlation of antibody development and clinical response or adverse events was observed. The long-term immunogenicity of AMEVIVE is unknown.

The data reflect the percentage of patients whose test results were considered positive for antibodies to interferon in an ELISA assay, and are highly dependent on the sensitivity and specificity of the assay. Additionally, the observed incidence of antibody positivity in an assay may be influenced by various factors including sample handling, timing of sample collection, concomitant medications, and underlying disease. For these reasons, comparison of the incidence of antibodies to interferon with the incidence of antibodies to other products may be misleading.

OVERDOSE

The highest dose tested in humans (0.75 mg/kg IV) was associated with chills, headache, arthralgia, and sinusitis within one day of dosing. Patients who have been inadvertently administered excess doses of the recommended dose should be closely monitored for effects on total lymphocyte count and CD4⁺ T lymphocyte count.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

AMEVIVE should only be used under the guidance and supervision of a physician. The recommended dose of AMEVIVE is 7.5 mg given once weekly as IV bolus or 15 mg given once weekly as IM injection. The recommended course of therapy consists of 12 weekly injections. Retreatment with an additional 12-week course may be initiated provided that CD4⁺ T lymphocyte counts are within the normal range, and a minimum of a 12-week interval has passed since the previous course of treatment.

The CD4⁺ T lymphocyte counts of patients receiving AMEVIVE should be monitored before initiating dosing and every two weeks throughout the course of the 12-week dosing regimen. If CD4⁺ T lymphocyte counts are below 250 cells/mm³, AMEVIVE dosing should be withheld and

#	Name	Strength	Dosage Form
1	AMEVIVE 15	15	INJECTION, POWDER, LYOPHILIZED, FOR SOLUTION (C42697)
2	AMEVIVE 15	15	INJECTION, POWDER, LYOPHILIZED, FOR SOLUTION (C42697)
3	AMEVIVE 7.5	7.5	INJECTION, POWDER, LYOPHILIZED, FOR SOLUTION (C42697)
4	AMEVIVE 7.5	7.5	INJECTION, POWDER, LYOPHILIZED, FOR SOLUTION (C42697)

weekly monitoring instituted. AMEVIVE should be discontinued if the counts remain below 250 cells/mm³ for one month (see PRECAUTIONS, Laboratory Tests).

Preparation Instructions

AMEVIVE should be reconstituted by a health care professional using Sterile Water for Injection. Each vial is for single patient use only.

Do not use AMEVIVE beyond the date stamped on the carton, dose pack (IV), or drug/diluent pack (IM). AMEVIVE vial label, or diluent container label.

AMEVIVE 15 mg lyophilized powder for IM administration should be reconstituted with 0.5 mL of the supplied diluent (Sterile Water for Injection, USP), 0.5 mL of the reconstituted solution contains 15 mg of interferon.

AMEVIVE 7.5 mg lyophilized powder for IV administration should be reconstituted with 0.5 mL of the supplied diluent. 0.5 mL of the reconstituted solution contains 7.5 mg of interferon.

Do not add other medications to solutions containing AMEVIVE. Do not reconstitute AMEVIVE with other diluents. Do not filter reconstituted solution during preparation or administration. All procedures require the use of aseptic technique. Using the supplied syringe and one of the supplied needles, draw only 0.5 mL of the supplied diluent, (Sterile Water for Injection, USP). Keeping the needle pointed at the seaward of the vial, slowly inject the diluent into the vial of AMEVIVE. Some foaming will occur, which is normal. To avoid excessive foaming, do not shake or vigorously agitate. The contents should be swirled gently during dissolution. Generally, dissolution of AMEVIVE takes less than two minutes. The solution should be used as soon as possible after reconstitution.

The reconstituted solution should be clear and colorless to slightly yellow. Visually inspect the solution for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration. The solution should not be used if discolored or cloudy or if undissolved material remains. Following reconstitution, the product should be used immediately. If not used within 4 hours, the product should be discarded or within 4 hours if stored in the vial at 2-8°C (36-46°F). Do not use within 4 HOURS OF RECONSTITUTION SHOULD BE DISCARDED.

Remove the needle used for reconstitution and attach the needle of the syringe to the vial. Withdraw 0.5 mL of the AMEVIVE solution into the syringe. Some foam or bubbles may remain in the vial.

Administration Instructions

For intramuscular use, inject the full 0.5 mL of solution. Rotate injection sites so that a different site is used for each new injection. New injections should be given at least 1 inch from an old site and never into areas where the skin is tender, bruised, red, or hard.

For intravenous use:

- Prepare 2 syringes with 3.0 mL Normal Saline, USP for pre- and post-administration flush.
- Flush the syringe with 3.0 mL saline and inject the rest into the vein.
- Attach the AMEVIVE-filled syringe to the infusion set and administer the solution over no more than 5 minutes.
- Flush the infusion set with 3.0 mL saline, USP.

HOW SUPPLIED

See table above. AMEVIVE for IV administration is supplied in either a carton containing four administration dose packs, or in a carton containing one administration dose pack. Each dose pack contains one 7.5-mg single-use vial of AMEVIVE, one 10 mL single-use diluent vial (Sterile Water for Injection, USP), one syringe and one 18-gauge, 1.5-inch needle set, and two 23 gauge, 1.5 inch needles. The NDC number for the four administration dose pack carton is 0469-0020-01. The NDC number for the one administration dose pack carton is 0469-0020-02.

AMEVIVE for IM administration is supplied in either a carton containing four dose packs or in a carton containing one dose pack. Each four dose pack carton contains one removable drug/diluent pack for refrigeration, four 1 mL syringes, and eight 23 gauge, 1.5 inch needles. Each four dose drug/diluent pack for refrigeration contains four 15-mg single-use vials of AMEVIVE and four 10 mL single-use diluent vials of Sterile Water for Injection, USP. Each single-dose carton contains one removable drug/diluent pack for refrigeration, one syringe and two 23 gauge, 1.5 inch needles. Each single-dose drug/diluent pack for refrigeration contains one 15-mg single-use vial of AMEVIVE and one 10 mL single-use diluent vial of Sterile Water for Injection, USP. The NDC number for the four-dose carton is 0469-0020-01. The NDC number for the single-dose carton is 0469-0021-04.

Appearance	Package Type	Package Size	NDC
CARTON (C43182)	1	0469-0021-04	
CARTON (C43182)	4	0469-0021-08	
CARTON (C43182)	1	0469-0020-01	
CARTON (C43182)	4	0469-0020-01	

AMEVIVE is reconstituted with 0.5 mL of the 10 mL single-use diluent.

The dose pack (IV) and drug/diluent pack (IM) containing AMEVIVE lyophilized powder should be stored in a refrigerator between 3-8°C (36-46°F). PROTECT FROM LIGHT. Retain in carton (IV) or drug/diluent pack (IM) unit of use.

References

1. Res ID# HAPAGNARS C, Des PK, et al. Prevalence of "memory" T cells (CD4⁺, CD25⁺) over "naïve" T cells (CD4⁺, CD45⁺) in both normal and diseased human skin. *Arch Dermatol Res* 1989; 181:241-30.
 2. Ellis C, Krueger GG. Treatment of chronic plaque psoriasis by selective targeting of memory effect T lymphocytes. *J Biol Med* 2001; 345:248-255.
 3. Friedman T, Peterson U. Severe psoriasis—early therapy with a new retinoid. *Dermatologica* 1978; 157:233-244.
- Revised: October 2008
AMEVIVE (interferon)
Manufactured by:
Astellas Pharma Inc., Inc.
Dundell, IL 60019
US License # 1745-1-8666-2483-8
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5,647,833
5,758,077
5,914,111
5,928,643
4,692,439
Additional U.S. Patent Pending
16007-4

MYCAMINE®

[mif-4d-mn]

(miconazole sodium) For Injection

INTRAVENOUS INFUSION (not for IV bolus injection)

DESCRIPTION

Proprietary name: MYCAMINE
Established name: (miconazole sodium) for injection
Route of administration: INTRAVENOUS (C38676)
Active ingredients (mixture): miconazole sodium

(See first table at top of next page)

MYCAMINE is a sterile, lyophilized product for intravenous (IV) infusion that contains miconazole sodium. Miconazole sodium is a synthetic imidazole (schizanthranol) synthesized by a chemical modification of a fermentation product of *Clostridium perfringens* F-1189. Miconazole inhibits the synthesis of 1, 3-β-D-glucan in several strains of the fungal cell wall.

Each single-use vial contains 50 mg or 100 mg miconazole sodium, 200 mg lactose, with citric acid and sodium hydroxide used for pH adjustment. MYCAMINE must be diluted with 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection, USP or 5% Dextrose Injection, USP before use. Following reconstitution with 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection, USP, the resulting pH of the solution is between 5.0-5.5. Miconazole sodium is chemically designated as: CC1=C(C=C(C=C1)N2C=CC(=C2)S3C4=CC(=CC=C4)N(C)C5=CC(=CC=C5)S6C7=CC(=CC=C7)N(C)C8=CC(=CC=C8)S9C10=CC(=CC=C10)N(C)C11=CC(=CC=C11)S12C13=CC(=CC=C13)N(C)C14=CC(=CC=C14)N(C)C15=CC(=CC=C15)N(C)C16=CC(=CC=C16)N(C)C17=CC(=CC=C17)N(C)C18=CC(=CC=C18)N(C)C19=CC(=CC=C19)N(C)C20=CC(=CC=C20)N(C)C21=CC(=CC=C21)N(C)C22=CC(=CC=C22)N(C)C23=CC(=CC=C23)N(C)C24=CC(=CC=C24)N(C)C25=CC(=CC=C25)N(C)C26=CC(=CC=C26)N(C)C27=CC(=CC=C27)N(C)C28=CC(=CC=C28)N(C)C29=CC(=CC=C29)N(C)C30=CC(=CC=C30)N(C)C31=CC(=CC=C31)N(C)C32=CC(=CC=C32)N(C)C33=CC(=CC=C33)N(C)C34=CC(=CC=C34)N(C)C35=CC(=CC=C35)N(C)C36=CC(=CC=C36)N(C)C37=CC(=CC=C37)N(C)C38=CC(=CC=C38)N(C)C39=CC(=CC=C39)N(C)C40=CC(=CC=C40)N(C)C41=CC(=CC=C41)N(C)C42=CC(=CC=C42)N(C)C43=CC(=CC=C43)N(C)C44=CC(=CC=C44)N(C)C45=CC(=CC=C45)N(C)C46=CC(=CC=C46)N(C)C47=CC(=CC=C47)N(C)C48=CC(=CC=C48)N(C)C49=CC(=CC=C49)N(C)C50=CC(=CC=C50)N(C)C51=CC(=CC=C51)N(C)C52=CC(=CC=C52)N(C)C53=CC(=CC=C53)N(C)C54=CC(=CC=C54)N(C)C55=CC(=CC=C55)N(C)C56=CC(=CC=C56)N(C)C57=CC(=CC=C57)N(C)C58=CC(=CC=C58)N(C)C59=CC(=CC=C59)N(C)C60=CC(=CC=C60)N(C)C61=CC(=CC=C61)N(C)C62=CC(=CC=C62)N(C)C63=CC(=CC=C63)N(C)C64=CC(=CC=C64)N(C)C65=CC(=CC=C65)N(C)C66=CC(=CC=C66)N(C)C67=CC(=CC=C67)N(C)C68=CC(=CC=C68)N(C)C69=CC(=CC=C69)N(C)C70=CC(=CC=C70)N(C)C71=CC(=CC=C71)N(C)C72=CC(=CC=C72)N(C)C73=CC(=CC=C73)N(C)C74=CC(=CC=C74)N(C)C75=CC(=CC=C75)N(C)C76=CC(=CC=C76)N(C)C77=CC(=CC=C77)N(C)C78=CC(=CC=C78)N(C)C79=CC(=CC=C79)N(C)C80=CC(=CC=C80)N(C)C81=CC(=CC=C81)N(C)C82=CC(=CC=C82)N(C)C83=CC(=CC=C83)N(C)C84=CC(=CC=C84)N(C)C85=CC(=CC=C85)N(C)C86=CC(=CC=C86)N(C)C87=CC(=CC=C87)N(C)C88=CC(=CC=C88)N(C)C89=CC(=CC=C89)N(C)C90=CC(=CC=C90)N(C)C91=CC(=CC=C91)N(C)C92=CC(=CC=C92)N(C)C93=CC(=CC=C93)N(C)C94=CC(=CC=C94)N(C)C95=CC(=CC=C95)N(C)C96=CC(=CC=C96)N(C)C97=CC(=CC=C97)N(C)C98=CC(=CC=C98)N(C)C99=CC(=CC=C99)N(C)C100=CC(=CC=C100)N(C)C101=CC(=CC=C101)N(C)C102=CC(=CC=C102)N(C)C103=CC(=CC=C103)N(C)C104=CC(=CC=C104)N(C)C105=CC(=CC=C105)N(C)C106=CC(=CC=C106)N(C)C107=CC(=CC=C107)N(C)C108=CC(=CC=C108)N(C)C109=CC(=CC=C109)N(C)C110=CC(=CC=C110)N(C)C111=CC(=CC=C111)N(C)C112=CC(=CC=C112)N(C)C113=CC(=CC=C113)N(C)C114=CC(=CC=C114)N(C)C115=CC(=CC=C115)N(C)C116=CC(=CC=C116)N(C)C117=CC(=CC=C117)N(C)C118=CC(=CC=C118)N(C)C119=CC(=CC=C119)N(C)C120=CC(=CC=C120)N(C)C121=CC(=CC=C121)N(C)C122=CC(=CC=C122)N(C)C123=CC(=CC=C123)N(C)C124=CC(=CC=C124)N(C)C125=CC(=CC=C125)N(C)C126=CC(=CC=C126)N(C)C127=CC(=CC=C127)N(C)C128=CC(=CC=C128)N(C)C129=CC(=CC=C129)N(C)C130=CC(=CC=C130)N(C)C131=CC(=CC=C131)N(C)C132=CC(=CC=C132)N(C)C133=CC(=CC=C133)N(C)C134=CC(=CC=C134)N(C)C135=CC(=CC=C135)N(C)C136=CC(=CC=C136)N(C)C137=CC(=CC=C137)N(C)C138=CC(=CC=C138)N(C)C139=CC(=CC=C139)N(C)C140=CC(=CC=C140)N(C)C141=CC(=CC=C141)N(C)C142=CC(=CC=C142)N(C)C143=CC(=CC=C143)N(C)C144=CC(=CC=C144)N(C)C145=CC(=CC=C145)N(C)C146=CC(=CC=C146)N(C)C147=CC(=CC=C147)N(C)C148=CC(=CC=C148)N(C)C149=CC(=CC=C149)N(C)C150=CC(=CC=C150)N(C)C151=CC(=CC=C151)N(C)C152=CC(=CC=C152)N(C)C153=CC(=CC=C153)N(C)C154=CC(=CC=C154)N(C)C155=CC(=CC=C155)N(C)C156=CC(=CC=C156)N(C)C157=CC(=CC=C157)N(C)C158=CC(=CC=C158)N(C)C159=CC(=CC=C159)N(C)C160=CC(=CC=C160)N(C)C161=CC(=CC=C161)N(C)C162=CC(=CC=C162)N(C)C163=CC(=CC=C163)N(C)C164=CC(=CC=C164)N(C)C165=CC(=CC=C165)N(C)C166=CC(=CC=C166)N(C)C167=CC(=CC=C167)N(C)C168=CC(=CC=C168)N(C)C169=CC(=CC=C169)N(C)C170=CC(=CC=C170)N(C)C171=CC(=CC=C171)N(C)C172=CC(=CC=C172)N(C)C173=CC(=CC=C173)N(C)C174=CC(=CC=C174)N(C)C175=CC(=CC=C175)N(C)C176=CC(=CC=C176)N(C)C177=CC(=CC=C177)N(C)C178=CC(=CC=C178)N(C)C179=CC(=CC=C179)N(C)C180=CC(=CC=C180)N(C)C181=CC(=CC=C181)N(C)C182=CC(=CC=C182)N(C)C183=CC(=CC=C183)N(C)C184=CC(=CC=C184)N(C)C185=CC(=CC=C185)N(C)C186=CC(=CC=C186)N(C)C187=CC(=CC=C187)N(C)C188=CC(=CC=C188)N(C)C189=CC(=CC=C189)N(C)C190=CC(=CC=C190)N(C)C191=CC(=CC=C191)N(C)C192=CC(=CC=C192)N(C)C193=CC(=CC=C193)N(C)C194=CC(=CC=C194)N(C)C195=CC(=CC=C195)N(C)C196=CC(=CC=C196)N(C)C197=CC(=CC=C197)N(C)C198=CC(=CC=C198)N(C)C199=CC(=CC=C199)N(C)C200=CC(=CC=C200)N(C)C201=CC(=CC=C201)N(C)C202=CC(=CC=C202)N(C)C203=CC(=CC=C203)N(C)C204=CC(=CC=C204)N(C)C205=CC(=CC=C205)N(C)C206=CC(=CC=C206)N(C)C207=CC(=CC=C207)N(C)C208=CC(=CC=C208)N(C)C209=CC(=CC=C209)N(C)C210=CC(=CC=C210)N(C)C211=CC(=CC=C211)N(C)C212=CC(=CC=C212)N(C)C213=CC(=CC=C213)N(C)C214=CC(=CC=C214)N(C)C215=CC(=CC=C215)N(C)C216=CC(=CC=C216)N(C)C217=CC(=CC=C217)N(C)C218=CC(=CC=C218)N(C)C219=CC(=CC=C219)N(C)C220=CC(=CC=C220)N(C)C221=CC(=CC=C221)N(C)C222=CC(=CC=C222)N(C)C223=CC(=CC=C223)N(C)C224=CC(=CC=C224)N(C)C225=CC(=CC=C225)N(C)C226=CC(=CC=C226)N(C)C227=CC(=CC=C227)N(C)C228=CC(=CC=C228)N(C)C229=CC(=CC=C229)N(C)C230=CC(=CC=C230)N(C)C231=CC(=CC=C231)N(C)C232=CC(=CC=C232)N(C)C233=CC(=CC=C233)N(C)C234=CC(=CC=C234)N(C)C235=CC(=CC=C235)N(C)C236=CC(=CC=C236)N(C)C237=CC(=CC=C237)N(C)C238=CC(=CC=C238)N(C)C239=CC(=CC=C239)N(C)C240=CC(=CC=C240)N(C)C241=CC(=CC=C241)N(C)C242=CC(=CC=C242)N(C)C243=CC(=CC=C243)N(C)C244=CC(=CC=C244)N(C)C245=CC(=CC=C245)N(C)C246=CC(=CC=C246)N(C)C247=CC(=CC=C247)N(C)C248=CC(=CC=C248)N(C)C249=CC(=CC=C249)N(C)C250=CC(=CC=C250)N(C)C251=CC(=CC=C251)N(C)C252=CC(=CC=C252)N(C)C253=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[illegible]

	Number (N) and Percentage of Patients				Number (N) and Percentage of Patients			
	ARIMDEX 1 mg (N=509)		NOLVADEX 20 mg (N=511)		ARIMDEX 1 mg (N=508)		NOLVADEX 20 mg (N=511)	
182 (6)								
96 (3)								
244 (8)								
251 (8)								
184 (6)								
194 (6)								
122 (4)								
125 (4)								
	Number Breast Group ^a				Adverse Event Group ^b			
	N (%)		N (%)		N (%)		N (%)	
	23 (6)		32 (6)		Hot Flashes		134 (26)	
	15 (3)		18 (4)		Vaginal Dryness		5 (1)	
	18 (4)		33 (6)		Limb Pain		6 (1)	
	15 (3)		15 (3)		Vaginal Bleeding		6 (1)	
	15 (3)		19 (4)		Weight Gain		11 (2)	
	170 (34)		196 (38)				8 (2)	

[illegible]

Following adverse event presentation at one or both of the three sites, the data were statistically analyzed. Thrombotic disease, gastrointestinal disease, and vaginal dryness were captured in the data. The results are shown in Table 13.

Table 13
Number (N) and Percentage of Patients
ARIMDEX 10 mg
(N=262)

Table 13
Number (N) and Percentage of Patients
ARIMDEX 10 mg
(N=2646)

Table 13
Number (N) and Percentage of Patients
Megestrol Acetate
160 mg
(N=253)

Adverse Event	ARIMDEX 10 mg (N=262)	ARIMDEX 10 mg (N=2646)	Megestrol Acetate 160 mg (N=253)
Disturbance	33 (12.6%)	81 (3.0%)	54 (21.3%)
Thrombotic Disease	19 (7.3%)	28 (1.1%)	35 (14.0%)
Gastrointestinal Disease	9 (3.4%)	2 (0.1%)	2 (0.8%)
Vaginal Dryness	5 (1.9%)	10 (0.4%)	20 (8.0%)

During clinical trials and postmarketing experience joint stiffness has been reported in association with the use of ARIMDEX. Carpal tunnel syndrome was reported more frequently in patients receiving ARIMDEX than in those receiving tamoxifen in clinical trials, carpal tunnel has also been reported during post-marketing experience with ARIMDEX. The majority of these reports occurred in patients with identifiable risk factors for the condition.

ARIMIDEX may also be associated with rash including very rare cases of mucocutaneous disorders such as erythema multiforme and Stevens-Johnson syndrome. Very rare cases of allergic reactions including angioedema, urticaria and anaphylaxis have been reported in patients receiving ARIMIDEX.

OVERDOSAGE

Clinical trials have been conducted with ARIMIDEX, up to 60 mg in a single dose given to healthy male volunteers and up to 10 mg daily given to postmenopausal women with advanced-stage breast cancer. In the clinical trials, the most common single dose of ARIMIDEX that results in life-threatening symptoms has not been established. In rats, lethality was observed after single oral doses that were greater than 100 mg/kg (about 800 times the recommended human dose) and caused necrosis of the stomach, intestines, and liver, as well as hemorrhage to the stomach (necrosis, gastritis, ulceration, and hemorrhage).

In an oral acute toxicity study in mice, the median lethal dose was greater than 45 mg/kg/day.

Caution should be exercised in overdosage and treatment must be symptomatic. In the management of an overdose, consider that multiple agents may have been taken. Vomiting may be induced if the patient is alert. Dialysis may be useful for basic and/or anion-exchange resins. Consider general supportive care, including frequent monitoring of vital signs and close observation of the patient, is indicated.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Dose The dose of ARIMIDEX is one 1 mg tablet taken once a day. For patients with advanced breast cancer, ARIMIDEX should be continued until tumor progression.

For adjuvant treatment of early breast cancer in postmenopausal women: The optimal duration of therapy is unknown. In the ATAC trial ARIMIDEX was administered for five years.

Patients with Hepatic impairment: (See CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY) Hepatic metabolism accounts for approximately 86% of anastrozole elimination. Although clearance of anastrozole was decreased in patients with hepatic impairment, plasma anastrozole concentrations stayed in the usual range seen in patients without liver disease. Therefore, no changes in dose are recommended for patients with mild-to-moderate hepatic impairment, although patients should be monitored for side effects. ARIMIDEX has not been studied in patients with severe hepatic impairment.

Patients with Renal impairment: No changes in dose are

necessary for patients with renal impairment.
Use in the Elderly: No dosage adjustment is necessary.
HOW SUPPLIED
 White, bloomex, film-coated tablets containing 1 mg of the active ingredient, *estrone*, are impressed on one side with a logo consisting of a letter "A" (upper case) with an arrowhead attached to the foot of the extended right leg of the "A" and to the reverse with the letter "A" and the strength marking "1 mg." These tablets are supplied in bottles of 30 tablets (NDC 0310-0201-30).

Storage: Store at controlled room temperature, 20-25°C (68-77°F) [see USP].

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 AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP
 Wilmington, DE 19850
 Made in USA
 30261-02 RV 05/07
 253029

Shown in Patient Identification Guide, page 906

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CRESTOR®
[kres-tor]
(rosuvastatin calcium)

DESCRIPTION

CRESTOR® (rosuvastatin calcium) is a synthetic lipid-lowering agent. Rosuvastatin is a potent inhibitor of 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-coenzyme A (HMG-CoA) reductase. This enzyme catalyzes the conversion of HMG-CoA to mevalonate, an early and rate-limiting step in cholesterol biosynthesis. Rosuvastatin calcium is bis[*(E)*-7-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-isopropyl-2-methyl-1-methylsulfonylamino] pyrimidin-5-yl](3*R*,5*R*)-3,5-dihydrohept-6-enoic acid) calcium salt. The empirical formula for rosuvastatin calcium is

(C₂₂H₂₈N₂O₅S₂)Ca. Its molecular weight is 1001.14. Its structural formula is:
[See structural formula at top of next column]
Rosuvastatin calcium is a white amorphous powder that is sparingly soluble in water and methanol, and slightly soluble in ethanol. Rosuvastatin is a hydrophilic compound with a partition coefficient (octanol/water) of 0.13 at pH of 7.0. CRESTOR Tablets for oral administration contain 5, 10, 20, or 40 mg of rosuvastatin and the following inactive ingredients:

not age, was the single predictive factor in the meloxicam apparent oral plasma-weight normalized apparent oral clearance. Adequate predictors of meloxicam clearance in patients.

35 years of age) exhibited melasma and steady state pharmacokinetics. Elderly females (≥ 65 years of age) had a mean \pm SD $t_{1/2}$ of 10.6 ± 1.4 h, CL_{CR} of 1.1 ± 0.4 mL/min/1.73 m², and 32% higher C_{max} as compared with the younger subjects.

males (≤ 55 years of age) after 1 year of treatment. Despite the increased total cost for elderly females, the adverse event profile for both elderly patient populations was found in elderly female patients and male patients.

and slightly lower plasma concentrations in males. After single doses of 7.5 mg, the elimination half-life was 12.5 hours, compared to 23.4 hours for the 15 mg, the data were similar (17.5 hours). Pharmacokinetic differences do not have clinical importance. There was linear and no appreciable difference in the

5 mg dose of meloxicam there were no plasma concentrations in subjects with Class I and moderate (Child-Pugh) impairment compared to healthy volunteers. Meloxicam was not affected by food intake. No dose adjustment is necessary in mild to moderate patients with severe renal impairment (Child-Pugh Class III). However,

kinetics have been investigated in sub

[illegible]

50 of meloxicam, the free $C_{50\%}$ plasma (higher in patients with renal failure) is 0.1% (free fraction) in comparison to 0.3% (free fraction). Hemodialysis did not alter meloxicam plasma concentration in patients with renal failure; therefore, not necessary after hemodialysis, feasible.

eumetoid Arthritis

The treatment of the sigmoid symp-
tom and knee was evaluated in a
controlled trial. MOBIC 15 (75 mg
daily) was compared with placebo.
The investigator's global assess-
ment, patient pain assessment, and
self-administered questionnaire ad-
vised and stiffness. Patients on MOBIC
15 mg daily showed significant im-
provements at endpoints compared with placebo.

the management of signs and symptoms was evaluated in six double-blind, randomized, controlled trials. In these trials, the efficacy of 5 mg/day and 15 mg/day was comparable with the efficacy of 30 mg/day and diclofenac SR 100 mg/day as seen in the U.S. trial.

The treatment of the sigmoid symphysis was evaluated in a 12-week study. The treatment group received 5 mg daily was compared to placebo. In this study the AC200 retractor was used. Patients receiving 5 mg daily showed significant improvement compared with placebo. No adverse effects were observed with the 22.5 mg dose.

[illegible]

NSAIDs should be prescribed with extreme caution in those with a prior history of ulcer disease or gastrointestinal bleeding. Patients with a prior history of peptic ulcer disease and/or gastrointestinal bleeding who use NSAIDs have a greater than 10-fold increased risk for developing a GI bleed compared to patients with neither of these risk factors. Other factors that increase the risk for GI bleeding in patients treated with NSAIDs include concomitant use of corticosteroids or anticoagulants, longer duration of NSAID therapy, smoking, use of alcohol, older age, and poor general health status. Most spontaneous reports of fatal GI events are in elderly or debilitated patients and therefore, special care should be taken in treating this population.

To minimize the potential risk for an adverse GI event in patients treated with an NSAID, the lowest effective dose should be used for the shortest possible duration. Patients and physicians should remain alert for signs and symptoms of GI ulceration and bleeding during NSAID therapy and promptly initiate additional evaluation and treatment if a serious GI adverse event is suspected. This should include discontinuation of the NSAID until a serious GI adverse event is ruled out. For high-risk patients, alternate therapies that do not involve NSAIDs should be considered.

Renal Effects
Long-term administration of NSAIDs, including Mobico (meloxicam) tablets/oral suspension, can result in renal papillary necrosis, renal insufficiency, acute renal failure and other renal injury. Renal toxicity has also been seen in patients in whom renal prostaglandins have a compensatory

tory role in the maintenance of renal perfusion. In these patients, administration of a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug may cause a dose-dependent reduction in prostaglandin formation and, secondarily, in renal blood flow, which may precipitate overt renal decompensation. Patients at greatest risk of this reaction are those with impaired renal function, heart failure, liver dysfunction, those taking diuretics, ACE inhibitors, and angiotensin II receptor antagonists, and the elderly. Discontinuation of NSAID therapy usually followed by recovery to the pretreatment state.

Advanced Renal Disease

No information is available from controlled clinical studies regarding the use of MOBIC tablets/oral suspension in patients with advanced renal disease. Therefore, treatment

with MOBIC tablets/oral suspension is not recommended in these patients with advanced renal disease. If MOBIC tablets/oral suspension therapy must be initiated, close monitoring of the patient's renal function is advisable.

Anaphylactoid reactions. As with other NSAIDs, anaphylactoid reactions have been reported in patients without known prior exposure to aspirin. These reactions have been reported with MOBIC tablet/oral suspension. MOBIC tablet/oral suspension should not be given to patients with the aspirin triad. This symptom complex typically occurs in asthmatic patients who experience rhinitis with or without nasal polyps, or who exhibit severe, potentially fatal bronchospasm after taking aspirin or other NSAIDs (see CONTRAINDICATIONS and PRECAUTIONS, Pre-existing Asthma). Emergency help should be sought in cases where an anaphylactoid reaction occurs.

Skin Reactions
NSAIDs, including MOBIC tablets/oral suspension, can cause serious skin adverse events such as exfoliative dermatitis, Stevens-Johnson Syndrome (SJS), and toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), which can be fatal. These serious events may occur without warning. Patients should be informed about the signs and symptoms of serious skin manifestations and use of the drug should be discontinued at the first appearance of skin rash or any other sign of hypersensitivity.

Pregnancy
In late pregnancy, as with other NSAIDs, MOBIC tablets should be avoided because of the risk of bleeding.

PRECAUTIONS

General
Mobic® (meloxicam) tablets/oral suspension cannot be used to substitute for corticosteroids or to treat corticosteroid insufficiency. Abrupt discontinuation of corticosteroids may lead to disease exacerbation. Patients on prolonged corticosteroid therapy should have their therapy tapered slowly if a decision is made to discontinue corticosteroids.

The pharmacological activity of MOBIC tablets/oral suspension in reducing fever and inflammation may diminish utility of these diagnostic signs in detecting complication presumed noninfectious, painful conditions.

Hepatic Effects: Elevations of one or more liver tests may occur in 15% of patients taking NSAIDs including MOBIC while on full therapeutic suspension. These laboratory abnormalities, if they occur, may remain unchanged; or may be transient, returning to baseline within 1 to 2 weeks of continuing therapy. Notable elevations of ALT or AST (approximately three or more times the upper limit of normal) have been reported in approximately 1% of patients in clinical trials with NSAIDs. In addition, rare cases of severe toxic reactions, including jaundice and fatal fulminant hepatitis, liver necrosis and hepatic failure, some of which have fatal outcomes have been reported.

A patient with symptoms and/or signs suggesting liver dysfunction, or in whom an increase in liver test has occurred should be evaluated to determine the cause of the development, monitor for signs and symptoms of liver disease, and consider alternative therapy. Monitor for signs and symptoms of more severe hepatic reaction while on therapy with MOBIC tablets/suspension. If clinical signs and symptoms

sistent with liver disease develop, or if systemic manifestations occur (e.g., eosinophilia, rash, etc.), MOBIC tablets/oral suspension should be discontinued.

Renal Effects
Caution should be used when initiating treatment with MOBIC tablets/oral suspension in patients with considerable dehydration. It is advisable to rehydrate patients first and then start therapy with MOBIC tablets/oral suspension. Caution is also recommended in patients with pre-existing kidney disease (see **WARNINGS**, Renal Effects and Advanced Renal Disease).

The extent to which metabolites may accumulate in patients with renal failure has not been studied with MOBIC tablets/oral suspension. Because some MOBIC tablets/oral suspension metabolites are excreted by the kidney, patients with significantly impaired renal function should be more closely monitored.

Hematological Effects
Anemia is sometimes seen in patients receiving NSAIDs, including MOBIC tablets/oral suspension. This may be due to fluid retention, occult or gross GI blood loss, or an incompletely described effect upon erythropoiesis. Patients on long-term treatment with NSAIDs, including MOBIC tablets/oral suspension, should have their hemoglobin or hematocrit checked if they exhibit any signs or symptoms of anemia.

Drugs which inhibit the biosynthesis of prostaglandins may interfere to some extent with platelet function and vascular responses to bleeding.

to prolong bleeding time in some patients. Unlike aspirin their effect on platelet function is quantitatively less, of shorter duration, and reversible. Patients receiving Mobic® (meloxicam) tablets/oral suspension who may be adversely affected by alterations in platelet function, such as those with coagulation disorders or patients receiving anticoagulant therapy, should be monitored closely.

Pre-existing Asthma

Patients with asthma may have aspirin-sensitive asthma. The use of aspirin in patients with aspirin-sensitive asthma has been associated with severe bronchospasm which can be fatal. Since cross reactivity, including bronchospasm, between aspirin and other NSAIDs has been reported in such aspirin-sensitive patients, MOBIC tablets/oral suspension should not be administered to patients with this form of aspirin sensitivity and should be used with caution in patients with pre-existing asthma.

Information for Patients
Patients should be informed of the following information before initiating therapy with an NSAID and periodically during the course of ongoing therapy. Patients should be encouraged to read the NSAID Medication Guide that accompanies each prescription dispensed.

1. MOIB tablets/suspension, like other NSAIDs, may cause serious CV side effects, such as MI or stroke, which may result in hospitalization and even death. Although serious CV events can occur without warning symptoms, patients should be alert for the signs and symptoms of heart failure, such as breathlessness, swelling, blurring of speech, and should ask for medical advice when observing any indicative sign or symptoms. Patients should be apprised of the importance of this follow-up (see WARNINGS, Cardiovascular).

2. **MOBIC tablets/oral suspension**, like other NSAIDs, can cause GI discomfort and, rarely, serious GI side effects, such as ulcers and bleeding, which may result in hospitalization and even death. Although serious GI tract ulcerations and bleeding can occur without warning symptoms, patients should be alert for the signs and

ing symptoms, patients should be alert for the signs and symptoms of ulcerations and bleeding, and should ask for medical advice when observing any indicative signs or symptoms including epigastric pain, dyspepsia, melena, and hematemesis. Patients should be apprised of the importance of this follow-up (see **WARNINGS**, Gastrointestinal (GI) Effects - Risk of GI Ulceration).

3. **MOBIC** tablets/oral suspension, like other NSAIDs, can cause serious skin side effects such as exfoliative dermatitis, SJS, and TEN, which may result in hospitalizations and even death. Although serious skin reactions may occur without warning, patients should

alert for the signs and symptoms of skin rash and blisters, fever, or other signs of hypersensitivity such as itching, and should ask for medical advice when observing any indicative signs or symptoms. Patients should be advised to stop the drug immediately if they develop any type of rash and contact their physician.

4. Patients should promptly report signs or symptoms of unexplained weight gain or edema to their physician.
5. Patients should be informed of the warning signs of a symptoms of hepatotoxicity (e.g., nausea, fatigue, lethargy, pruritus, jaundice, right upper quadrant tenderness).

6. Patients should be informed of the signs of an anaphylactoid reaction (e.g., difficulty breathing, swelling of the face or throat). If these occur, patients should be instructed to seek immediate emergency help (9).

Continued on next page

What is out of date or that you no longer need. Throw away any medicines away make sure.

Supplied in bottles of 250ml and 500ml. Lemon or regular
flavor.

| In bottles of 50, 100, 250.

Continued on next page

Continued on next page

Remicade—Cont.

thereafter through week 22 in Study UC II. In Study UC II, patients were allowed to continue blinded therapy to week 46 at the investigator's discretion.

Patients in Study UC I had failed to respond or were intolerant to oral corticosteroids, 6-mercaptopurine (6-MP), or azathioprine (AZA). Patients in Study UC II had failed to respond or were intolerant to the above treatments and/or aminosalicylates. Similar proportions of patients in Studies UC I and UC II were receiving corticosteroids (61% and 51%, respectively), 6-MP/azathioprine (49% and 43%), and aminosalicylates (70% and 76%) at baseline. More patients in Study UC II than UC I were taking solely aminosalicylates for UC (26% vs. 11%, respectively). Clinical response was defined as a decrease from baseline in the Mayo score by ≥ 3 or ≥ 3 points, accompanied by a decrease in the rectal bleeding score of ≥ 1 or a rectal bleeding subscore of 0 or 1.

Clinical Response, Clinical Remission, and Mucosal Healing

In both Study UC I and Study UC II, greater percentages of patients in both REMICADE groups achieved clinical response, clinical remission and mucosal healing than in the placebo group. Each of these effects was maintained through the end of each trial (week 54 in Study UC I, and week 30 in Study UC II). In addition, a greater proportion of patients in REMICADE groups demonstrated sustained response and sustained remission than in the placebo groups (Table 9).

Of patients on corticosteroids at baseline, greater proportions of patients in the REMICADE treatment groups were in clinical remission and able to discontinue corticosteroids at week 30 compared with the patients in the placebo treatment groups (25% in REMICADE treatment groups vs. 10% in placebo group in Study UC I; 23% in REMICADE treatment groups vs. 3% in placebo group in Study UC II). In Study UC I, this effect was maintained through week 54 (21% in REMICADE treatment groups vs. 5% in placebo group). The REMICADE-associated response was generally similar in the 5 mg/kg and 10 mg/kg dose groups. (See Table 9 at bottom of previous page)

The improvement with REMICADE was consistent across all Mayo subscores through week 54 (Study UC I shown in Table 10; Study UC II through week 30 was similar).

Table 10
PROPORTION OF PATIENTS IN STUDY UC I WITH MAYO SUBSCORES INDICATING INACTIVE OR MILD DISEASE THROUGH WEEK 54

	Placebo (n=121)	5 mg/kg (n=121)	10 mg/kg (n=122)
Stool frequency			
Baseline	17%	17%	10%
Week 8	35%	50%	58%
Week 30	35%	51%	58%
Week 54	31%	52%	51%
Rectal bleeding			
Baseline	54%	40%	48%
Week 8	44%	36%	30%
Week 30	65%	74%	71%
Week 54	62%	69%	67%
Physician's global assessment			
Baseline	4%	6%	3%
Week 8	44%	58%	74%
Week 30	36%	57%	55%
Week 54	26%	53%	53%
Endoscopy findings			
Baseline	0%	0%	0%
Week 8	34%	62%	69%
Week 30	20%	51%	62%
Week 54	21%	50%	51%

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Rheumatoid Arthritis
REMICADE, in combination with methotrexate, is indicated for reducing signs and symptoms, inhibiting the progression of structural damage, and improving physical function in patients with moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis.

Crohn's Disease

REMICADE is indicated for reducing signs and symptoms and inducing and maintaining clinical remission in adult and pediatric patients with moderately to severely active Crohn's disease who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy (see Boxed WARNINGS, WARNINGS, and PRECAUTIONS-Pediatric Use).

REMICADE is indicated for reducing the number of draining enterocutaneous and rectovaginal fistulas and maintaining fistula closure in adult patients with fistulizing Crohn's disease.

Ankylosing Spondylitis

REMICADE is indicated for reducing signs and symptoms

Plaque Psoriasis

REMICADE is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with chronic severe (i.e., extensive and/or disabling) plaque psoriasis who are candidates for systemic therapy and when other systemic therapies are medically less appropriate. REMICADE should only be administered to patients who will be closely monitored and have regular follow-up visits with a physician (see Boxed WARNINGS, WARNINGS, and PRECAUTIONS).

Ulcerative Colitis

REMICADE is indicated for reducing signs and symptoms, inducing and maintaining clinical remission, and maintaining mucosal healing in adult patients with Crohn's disease with moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

REMICADE at doses > 5 mg/kg should not be administered to patients with moderate to severe heart failure. In a randomized study evaluating REMICADE in patients with moderate to severe heart failure (New York Heart Association [NYHA] Functional Class III/IV), REMICADE treatment at 10 mg/kg was associated with an increased incidence of death and hospitalization due to worsening heart failure (see WARNINGS and ADVERSE REACTIONS, Patients with Heart Failure).

REMICADE should not be re-administered to patients who have experienced a severe hypersensitivity reaction to REMICADE. Additionally, REMICADE should not be administered to patients with known hypersensitivity to any of the components of the product or to any murine proteins.

WARNINGS

RISK OF INFECTIONS

(See Boxed WARNINGS)

Serious infections, including sepsis and pneumonia, have been reported in patients receiving TNF-blocking agents. Some of these infections have been fatal. Although some of the serious infections in patients treated with REMICADE have occurred in patients on concomitant immunosuppressive therapy which in addition to their underlying disease may predispose them to infection, some patients who were hospitalized or had a fatal outcome from infection were treated with REMICADE alone.

REMICADE should not be given to patients with a clinically important, active infection. Caution should be exercised when administering REMICADE to patients with a chronic infection or a history of recurrent infection. Patients should be monitored for signs and symptoms of infection while on or after treatment with REMICADE. New infections should be closely monitored. If a patient develops a serious infection, REMICADE therapy should be discontinued (see ADVERSE REACTIONS: Infections).

Cases of tuberculosis, histoplasmosis, coccidioidomycosis, listeriosis, pneumocystosis, other bacterial, mycobacterial and fungal infections have been observed in patients receiving REMICADE. Patients should be evaluated for tuberculosis risk factors and be tested for latent tuberculosis infection. Treatment of latent tuberculosis infections should be initiated prior to therapy with REMICADE. When a skin skin test is performed for latent tuberculosis infection on an induration size of 5 mm or greater should be considered positive, even if vaccinated previously with Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG).

Patients receiving REMICADE should be monitored closely for signs and symptoms of active tuberculosis, particularly since tests for latent tuberculosis infection may be falsely negative. The possibility of undetected latent tuberculosis should be considered, especially in patients who have immigrated from or traveled to countries with a high prevalence of tuberculosis or had close contact with a person with active tuberculosis. All patients treated with REMICADE should have a thorough history taken prior to initiating therapy. Some patients who have previously received treatment for latent or active tuberculosis have developed active tuberculosis while being treated with REMICADE. Anti-tuberculosis therapy should be considered prior to initiation of REMICADE in patients with a past history of latent or active tuberculosis in whom an adequate course of treatment cannot be confirmed. Anti-tuberculosis therapy prior to initiating REMICADE should also be considered in patients who have severe or highly significant risk factors for tuberculosis infection* and have a negative test for latent tuberculosis infection. Anti-tuberculosis therapy in these patients should only be made following consultation with a physician with expertise in the treatment of tuberculosis and taking into account both the risk for latent tuberculosis infection and the risks of anti-tuberculosis therapy.

For patients who have resided in regions where histoplasmosis or coccidioidomycosis is endemic, the benefits and risks of REMICADE treatment should be carefully considered before initiation of REMICADE therapy. Serious infections were seen in clinical studies with concurrent use of anakinra and other TNF-blocking agent, etanercept, with no added clinical benefit compared to etanercept alone. Because of the nature of the adverse events seen with combination of etanercept and anakinra

Rare post-marketing cases of hepatosplenic T-cell lymphoma have been reported in adolescent and young adults treated with roquinimex. In patients receiving REMICADE, severe hepatitis has occurred in patients on concomitant treatment with azathioprine or 6-mercaptopurine. The natural course of this disease is very aggressive with a high outcome in most patients within 2 years of diagnosis. The causal relationship of hepatosplenic T-cell lymphoma to REMICADE therapy remains unclear.

Hepatitis B Virus Reactivation

Use of TNF blockers, including REMICADE, has been associated with hepatitis B virus (HBV) reactivation in patients who are chronic carriers of this virus. In some instances, HBV reactivation occurring in conjunction with TNF blocker therapy has been fatal. The majority of reports have occurred in patients on concomitant immunosuppressive therapy, such as the immune system, which may also contribute to HBV reactivation. Patients at risk for HBV infection should be evaluated for prior evidence of HBV infection before initiating TNF blocker therapy. Physicians should exercise caution in prescribing TNF blockers, including REMICADE, for patients identified as carriers of HBV. Adequate data are not available on the safety of treating patients who are carriers of HBV with anti-viral therapy in conjunction with TNF blocker therapy.

HBV reactivation should be closely monitored in patients with HBV and require treatment with TNF blockers should be closely monitored for clinical and laboratory signs of HBV infection throughout therapy and for several months following discontinuation of therapy. Patients with HBV reactivation, TNF blockers should be stopped and supportive therapy with appropriate supportive treatment should be initiated. The safety of resuming TNF blocker therapy after HBV reactivation is controlled is not known. Therefore, physicians should exercise caution about reinitiating resumption of TNF blocker therapy in this situation and monitor patients closely.

Hepatotoxicity

Severe hepatic reactions, including acute liver failure, cholestatic hepatitis and cholestasis have been reported rarely in post-marketing data in patients receiving REMICADE. Severe hepatic reactions have been diagnosed in some of these cases. Severe hepatic reactions occurred between two to four years after initiation of clinical studies in patients with moderate to severe hepatic aminotransferase levels were twice or more than the upper limit of normal.

Some of these cases were fatal or necessitated liver transplantation. Patients with signs and symptoms of liver dysfunction should be evaluated for evidence of liver injury, jaundice and/or marked liver enzyme elevations (at times the upper limit of normal) values. REMICADE should be discontinued, and a thorough investigation of abnormality should be undertaken. In patients with moderate elevations of ALT and AST have been observed in patients receiving REMICADE without progressive liver hepatic injury (see ADVERSE REACTIONS: Hepatotoxicity).

Patients with Heart Failure

REMICADE has been associated with adverse outcomes in patients with heart failure, and should be used in patients with heart failure only after consideration of alternative options. The results of a randomized study evaluating the use of REMICADE in patients with heart failure (NYHA Functional Class III/IV) suggested higher mortality in patients who received 10 mg/kg REMICADE, and higher rates of cardiovascular adverse events at doses of 10 mg/kg. There have been post-marketing reports of patients with worsening heart failure, with and without identifiable precipitating factors, in patients taking REMICADE.

There have also been rare post-marketing reports of new-onset heart failure including heart failure in patients with no known pre-existing cardiovascular disease. Some of these patients have been under 50 years of age. If a decision is made to administer REMICADE to patients with heart failure, they should be closely monitored during therapy.

REMICADE should be discontinued if a patient develops symptoms of heart failure (see CONTRAINDICATIONS and ADVERSE REACTIONS, Patients with Heart Failure).

Hematologic Events

Cases of leukopenia, neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, pancytopenia, some with a fatal outcome, have been reported in patients receiving REMICADE. The relationship to REMICADE therapy remains unclear. Although no high-risk groups have been identified, caution should be exercised in patients being treated with REMICADE who have ongoing or a history of significant hematologic abnormalities. All patients should be advised to seek immediate medical attention if they develop signs and symptoms of decreased hemoglobin or red blood cells (e.g., dizziness, fever) while on REMICADE. Discontinuation of REMICADE therapy should be considered in patients who develop significant hematologic abnormalities.

Hypersensitivity

REMICADE has been associated with hypersensitivity reactions that vary in their time of onset and require hospitalization in some cases. Most hypersensitivity reactions include urticaria, dyspnea, and/or hypotension.

Cardizem LA—Cont.

The effect of cyclosporin on diltiazem plasma concentrations has not been evaluated.

Cardioprotection. Chronic administration of diltiazem with carbenazepine has been reported to result in elevated serum levels of carbenazepine (40% to 72% increase), resulting in toxicity in some cases. Patients receiving these drugs concurrently should be monitored for a potential drug interaction.

Levotarin. In a ten-subject study, coadministration of 120 mg daily diltiazem SR with levotarin resulted in a 3-4 times increase in mean levotarin AUC and C_{max} versus levotarin alone, no change in prostatic AUC and C_{max} was observed. Diltiazem did not significantly affect levotarin plasma levels nor did it significantly affect levotarin or prostatic AUC.

Diagnosis. Diltiazem significantly increases AUC_{0-12} of quinidine by 51%, $T_{1/2}$ by 36%, and decreases Cl_{CR} by 33%. Monitoring for quinidine adverse effects may be warranted and the dose adjusted accordingly.

Diflupren. Coadministration of rifampin with diltiazem lowered the diltiazem plasma concentrations to undetectable levels. Coadministration of diltiazem with rifampin or any known CYP 3A4 inducer should be avoided where possible, and alternative therapy considered.

Cardiogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility. A 28-day study in male rats at dosage levels of up to 100 mg/kg/day and a 21-month study in mice at oral dosage levels of up to 30 mg/kg/day showed no evidence of cardiogenicity. There was also no mutagenicity in *in vitro* or *in vivo* tests. No evidence of impaired fertility was observed in a study performed in male and female rats at oral dosages of up to 100 mg/kg/day.

Pregnancy. Category C. Reproduction studies have been conducted in mice, rats, and rabbits. Administration of doses ranging from 4 to 10 times (depending on species) the upper limit of the optimum dosage range in clinical trials (480 mg q.d. or 8 mg/kg q.d. for a 60 kg patient) resulted in embryo and fetal lethality. There was no evidence of teratogenicity or another, a propensity to cause fetal abnormalities of the skeleton, heart, retina, and tongue. Also observed were reductions in early individual pup weights, pup survival, as well as prolonged gestation time and an increased incidence of stillbirths.

There are no well-controlled studies in pregnant women; therefore, use diltiazem in pregnant women only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

Nursing Mothers. Diltiazem is excreted in human milk. Human milk reports suggest that diltiazem levels may be approximately serum levels. If use of diltiazem is deemed essential, an alternative method of infant feeding should be instituted.

Pediatric Use. Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients have not been established.

Geriatric Use. Clinical studies of diltiazem did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 and over to determine whether they respond differently from younger subjects. Other reported clinical studies have not identified differences in responses between the elderly and younger patients. In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be cautious, usually starting at the low end of the dosing range, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function, and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Serious adverse reactions have been rare in studies carried out to date, but have not been recognized in patients with impaired ventricular function and cardiac conduction abnormalities have usually been excluded from these studies. In the hypertension study, the following adverse effects were reactions more common in diltiazem than in placebo (but excluding events with no plausible relationship to treatment), as reported in placebo-controlled hypertension studies in patients with mild to moderate hypertension: extended-release formulation (once-a-day dosing) up to 540 mg:

Adverse Reactions (MedDRA Term)	Diltiazem Hydrochloride extended-release			
	Placebo n = 120	120-360 mg n = 201	540 mg n = 123	
Sinus lower limb	4 (3)	24 (15)	10 (8)	
Oedema	1 (1)	2 (1)	2 (2)	
Rash	0 (0)	3 (1)	2 (2)	

In the angina study, the adverse event profile of Cardizem LA was consistent with what has been previously described for Cardizem LA and other formulations of diltiazem HCl. The most frequent adverse effects experienced by Cardizem LA-treated patients were edema (upper limb 6.5%, lower limb 4.6%), headache (4.6%), bradycardia (3.6%), first-degree atrioventricular block (3.2%), and cough (2%).

In clinical trials of other diltiazem formulations involving over 3200 patients, the following adverse effects (i.e., greater than 1%) were edema (4.6%), headache (4.6%), dizziness

(3.5%), asthenia (2.0%), first-degree AV block (2.4%), bradycardia (1.7%), flushing (1.4%), nausea (1.4%) and rash (1.2%).

In addition, the following events have been reported infrequently (less than 2%) in hypertension trials with other diltiazem products:

Cardiovascular: Angina, arrhythmia, AV block (second- or third-degree), bundle branch block, congestive heart failure, ECG abnormalities, hypertension, palpitations, syncope, tachycardia, ventricular extrasystoles.

Nervous System: Abnormal dreams, amnesia, depression, gait abnormalities, hallucinations, insomnia, nervousness, paresthesia, personality change, somnolence, tinnitus, tremor.

Gastrointestinal: Anorexia, constipation, diarrhea, dry mouth, dyspepsia, mild elevations of SGOT, SGPT, LDH, and alkaline phosphatase (see hepatic warnings), nausea, thirst, vomiting.

Dermatologic: Paresthesia, photosensitivity, pruritus.

Other: Allergic reaction, allergic angioedema, asthenia, CPM, increased, crystalluria, dyspnea, epiphora, epistaxis, eye irritation, headache, hemoconcentration, hyperkalemia, impotence, muscle cramps, nasal congestion, neck rigidity, neuritis, osteoarthritis, pain, polyuria, rhinitis, sexual difficulties, gastroenteritis.

The following postmarketing events have been reported infrequently in patients receiving diltiazem: allergic reactions, angina, arrhythmias (including focal or multifocal premature beats), erythema multiforme (including Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis), exfoliative dermatitis, extrapyramidal symptoms, gingival hyperplasia, hemolytic anemia, bleeding time, hemolysis, hemiparesis, purpura, retinopathy, and thrombocytopenia. In addition, events such as myocardial infarction have been observed. Events not clearly distinguishable from the natural history of the disease in these patients. A number of well-documented cases of generalized rash, some characterized as leukocytoclastic vasculitis, have been reported. However, a definitive cause and effect relationship between these events and diltiazem therapy is yet to be established.

OVERDOSEAGE

The oral LD_{50} in mice and rats range from 415 to 740 mg/kg. In dogs, the LD_{50} was 310 mg/kg. In one of the transverse LD_{50} s in these species were 60 and 38 mg/kg, respectively. The oral LD_{50} in dogs is considered to be in excess of 50 mg/kg, while lethality was seen in monkeys at 590 mg/kg.

The toxic dose in man is not known. Due to extensive metabolism, blood levels after a standard dose of diltiazem are usually low, limiting the usefulness of blood levels in overdose cases. There have been 28 reports of diltiazem overdose in doses ranging from 1 to 36 grams. Sixteen of these reports involved multiple drug ingestions.

Twenty-two reports indicated patients had recovered from diltiazem overdose ranging from less than 1 g to 36 g. There were seven reports with a fatal outcome; although the amount of diltiazem ingested was unknown, multiple drug ingestions were confirmed in six of the seven reports. Events observed following diltiazem overdose included bradycardia, hypotension, heart block, and cardiac failure. Most reports of overdose described some supportive medical measures and/or drug treatment. Bradycardia frequently responded favorably to atropine as did heart block, although cardiac pacing was also frequently utilized to treat heart block. Fluids and vasopressors were used to maintain blood pressure, and in cases of cardiac failure, inotropic agents were administered. In addition, some patients received treatment with ventilatory support, gastric lavage, activated charcoal, and/or intravenous calcium. Evidence of the effectiveness of intravenous calcium administration to reverse the pharmacological effects of diltiazem overdose was conflicting.

In the event of overdose or exaggerated response, appropriate supportive measures should be employed in addition to gastrointestinal decontamination. Diltiazem does not appear to be excreted by hemodialysis or hemoperfusion. Limited data suggest that plasmapheresis or charcoal hemoperfusion may hasten diltiazem elimination following overdose. Based on the known pharmacological effects of diltiazem and/or reported clinical experiences, the following measures may be considered:

Bradycardia: Administer atropine (0.60 to 1 mg). If there is no response to vagal blockade, administer isoproterenol cautiously.

High-Degree AV Block: Treat as for bradycardia above. Fixed high-degree AV block should be treated with cardiac pacing.

Cardiac Failure: Administer inotropic agents (isoproterenol, dopamine, or dobutamine) and diuretics.

Hypotension: Vasopressors (e.g., dopamine or norepinephrine).

Actual treatment and dosage should depend on the severity of the clinical situation and the judgment and experience of the treating physician.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Cardizem LA Tablets are an extended release formulation intended for once-a-day administration. Patients controlled on diltiazem alone or in combination with other antihypertensive agents should be switched to Cardizem LA Tablets once-a-day at the nearest equivalent total daily dose. Higher doses of Cardizem LA Tablets once-a-day

dosage may be needed in some patients who are inadequately monitored. Subsequent titration of Cardizem LA Tablets may be necessary and should be done in increments of 360 mg, but the safety of doses as high as 540 mg have been studied in patients with hypertension. The effect of side effects increases in a dose-dependent fashion, and the magnitude of the effect is directly proportional to the strength of the relationship to dose. The tablet should be swallowed whole.

Hypertension

Dosage needs to be adjusted by titration. When used as monotherapy, the initial dosage may be 180 to 240 mg once daily. In patients who respond to lower doses, the dosage may be adjusted in increments of 360 mg. A tentative effect is usually observed within 1 to 2 weeks; if there, dosage adjustments should be made accordingly. The dosage range studied in hypertension trials was 120 to 540 mg once daily. The dosage range studied in hypertension trials was 120 to 540 mg once daily. The dosage range studied in hypertension trials was 120 to 540 mg once daily. The dosage range studied in hypertension trials was 120 to 540 mg once daily.

Cardizem LA Tablets should be taken once each day on the morning or evening. The time of day should be considered for the adjustment based on trough effects. Angina

Dosage for the treatment of angina should be adjusted according to the response. The initial dose of Cardizem LA Tablets may be increased at intervals of 1 to 2 weeks.

Extended Release Tablets may be administered once daily. The dosage range studied in hypertension trials was 120 to 540 mg once daily. The dosage range studied in hypertension trials was 120 to 540 mg once daily.

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Cardizem LA Tablets are available in 120, 180, 240, 360, 480, and 540 mg strengths. The tablets are white, crystalline powder, free of solvents, and contain no preservatives. The tablets are stored in a dry, light-resistant container.

Pharmacology

Diltiazem (NAD) is the active metabolite of diltiazem. It is a calcium channel blocker, inhibiting the entry of calcium ions into the cell. It is a calcium channel blocker, inhibiting the entry of calcium ions into the cell. It is a calcium channel blocker, inhibiting the entry of calcium ions into the cell.

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PRODUCT INFORMATION

Gelatin capsule shells contain gelatin, iron oxide (yellow, black, and red), and titanium dioxide. They may also contain benzyl alcohol, carbonylmethylcellulose sodium, edetate calcium disodium.

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

The mechanism of action of Soriatene is unknown.

Pharmacokinetics: Absorption: Oral absorption of acitretin is optimal when given with food. For this reason, acitretin was given with food in all of the following studies. After administration of a single 50 mg oral dose of acitretin to 16 healthy subjects, mean plasma concentrations ranged from 196 to 728 ng/mL (mean 416 ng/mL) and were achieved in 2 to 6 hours (mean 2.7 hours). The oral absorption of acitretin is linear and proportional with increasing doses from 25 to 100 mg. Approximately 72% (range 47% to 109%) of the administered dose was absorbed after a single 50 mg dose of acitretin was given to healthy subjects. Distribution: Acitretin is more than 99.9% bound to plasma proteins, primarily albumin.

Metabolism: Following oral absorption, acitretin undergoes extensive metabolic and interconversion by simple isomerization to its 13-*cis* form (acitretin). The formation of acitretin relative to the parent compound is not altered by dose or fed/fasted conditions of oral administration of acitretin. Both parent compound and isomer are further metabolized into chain-shortened breakdown products and conjugates, which are excreted. Following multiple-dose administration of acitretin, steady-state concentrations of acitretin and acitretin in plasma are achieved within approximately 3 weeks.

Elimination: The chain-shortened metabolites and conjugates of acitretin and acitretin are ultimately excreted in urine (54% to 54%) and feces (10% to 53%). The terminal elimination half-life of acitretin following multiple-dose administration is 49 hours (range 33 to 96 hours), and that of acitretin under the same conditions is 83 hours (range 28 to 157 hours). The accumulation ratio of the parent compound is 1.2; that of acitretin is 6.6.

Special Populations: Psoriasis: In a 8-week study of acitretin pharmacokinetics in patients with psoriasis, mean steady-state trough concentrations of acitretin increased in a dose proportional manner with dosages ranging from 10 to 60 mg daily. Acitretin plasma concentrations were normally less than 4 ng/mL (<4 ng/mL) in all patients 3 weeks after cessation of therapy.

Elderly: In a multiple-dose study in healthy young ($n = 6$) and elderly ($n = 8$) subjects, a two-fold increase in acitretin plasma concentrations were seen in elderly subjects, although the elimination half-life did not change.

Renal Failure: Plasma concentrations of acitretin were significantly (50.9%) lower in end-stage renal failure subjects ($n = 6$) when compared to age-matched controls, following single 50 mg oral dose. Acitretin was not removed by hemodialysis in these subjects.

Pharmacokinetic Drug Interactions: (see also boxed CONTRAINDICATIONS AND WARNINGS and PRECAUTIONS, Drug Interactions) In studies in vivo pharmacokinetic drug interactions, no interaction was seen between acitretin and cimetidine, digoxin, phenprocoumon or glyburide.

Ethanol: Clinical evidence has shown that etretinate (a retinoid with a much longer half-life, see below) can be formed with concurrent ingestion of alcohol and ethanol. In a two-way crossover study of 10 subjects, mean steady-state trough concentrations of 100 mg oral dose of acitretin during a 3-hour period of ethanol ingestion (10% ethanol) approximately doubled (pk body weight 1.6 mean peak etretinate concentration of 59 ng/mL, range 22 to 166 ng/mL) was observed, and extrapolation of AUC values indicated that the formation of etretinate in this study was comparable to a single 100 mg oral dose of etretinate. There was no detectable formation of etretinate when a single 100 mg oral dose of acitretin was administered without concurrent ethanol ingestion, although the formation of concurrent ethanol ingestion cannot be excluded (see boxed CONTRAINDICATIONS AND WARNINGS). Of 93 available blood samples (10 to 80 mg/dL), 16% had measurable etretinate levels (>5 ng/mL).

Etretinate has a much longer elimination half-life compared to that of acitretin. In one study, the apparent mean terminal half-life after 6 months of therapy was approximately 120 days (range 84 to 168 days). In another study of 47 patients treated chronically with acitretin, the mean steady-state drug levels (in the range of 0.5 to 12 ng/mL) 2.1 to 2.9 years after therapy was discontinued. The long half-life appears to be due to storage of drug in adipose tissue. **Progestin-only Contraception:** It has not been established if there is a pharmacokinetic interaction between acitretin and combined oral contraceptives. However, it has been established that acitretin interferes with the contraceptive effect of microdosed progestin preparations.¹ Microdosed "minipill" progestin preparations are not recommended for use with Soriatene. It is not clear whether oral progestin or injectable progestin such as implants and injectables are adequate methods of contraception during acitretin therapy.

CLINICAL STUDIES

In two double-blind placebo controlled studies, Soriatene was administered once daily to patients with severe psoriasis (i.e., covering at least 10% to 20% of the body surface area). At 8 weeks (see Table 1) patients treated in Study A

Timing of Paternal Acitretin Treatment Relative to Conception

At time of conception	Delivery of Healthy Neonate	Spontaneous Abortion	Induced Abortion	Total
	0*	5	1	11
Discontinued ~4 weeks prior	0	0	1**	1
Discontinued ~6 to 8 months prior	0	1	0	1

* Four of 5 cases were prospective.

** With malformation pattern not typical of retinoid embryopathy (bilateral cystic hygromas of neck, hypoplasia of lungs, bilateral, pulmonary stenosis, VSD with overriding transverse aorta).

with 50 mg Soriatene per day showed significant improvement ($p < 0.05$) relative to baseline and to placebo in the physician's global evaluation and in the mean ratings of severity of psoriasis (scaling, thickness, and erythema), and 3 differences from baseline and from placebo were statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) for all variables at both the 25 mg and 50 mg doses; it should be noted for Study B that no statistical adjustment for multiplicity was carried out.

Table 1. Summary of the Soriatene Efficacy Results of the 8-Week Double-Blind Phase of Studies A and B

Efficacy Variables	Study A		Study B	
	Placebo (N=29)	50 mg (N=29)	Placebo (N=72)	50 mg (N=71)
Physician's Global Evaluation Baseline	4.62	4.55	4.43	4.49
Mean Change After 8 Weeks	-0.23	-2.00*	-0.06	-1.57*
Scaling Baseline	4.10	3.76	3.97	4.11
Mean Change After 8 Weeks	-0.22	-1.67*	-0.21	-1.50*
Thickness Baseline	4.10	4.10	4.03	4.11
Mean Change After 8 Weeks	-0.39	-2.10*	-0.15	-1.43*
Erythema Baseline	4.21	4.59	4.42	4.24
Mean Change After 8 Weeks	-0.33	-2.10*	-0.37	-1.12*

*Values were statistically significantly different from placebo and from baseline ($p < 0.05$). No adjustment for multiplicity was made for Study B.

The efficacy variables consisted of: the mean severity ratings of scale, lesion thickness, erythema, and the physician's global evaluation of the current status of disease. Ratings of scaling, erythema, and lesion thickness, and the ratings of the global assessments were made using a seven-point scale (0 = none, 1 = trace, 2 = mild, 3 = mild-moderate, 4 = moderate, 5 = moderate-severe, 6 = severe).

A subset of 141 patients from both pivotal studies A and B continued to receive Soriatene in an open fashion for up to 24 weeks. At the end of the treatment period, all efficacy variables, as indicated in Table 2, were significantly improved ($p < 0.01$) from baseline, including extent of psoriasis, mean ratings of psoriasis severity and physician's global evaluation.

Table 2. Summary of the First Course of Soriatene Therapy (24 Weeks)

Variables	Study A	Study B
Mean Total Daily Soriatene Dose (mg)	42.8	43.1
Mean Duration of Therapy (Weeks)	21.1	22.6
Physician's Global Evaluation Baseline	4.51	4.43
Mean Change From Baseline	-2.26*	-2.60*
Scaling Baseline	3.97	4.07
Mean Change From Baseline	-2.15*	-2.45*

Thickness Baseline 4.00 4.12
Mean Change From Baseline -2.44* -2.66*
Erythema Baseline 4.35 4.38
Mean Change From Baseline -2.31* -2.29*

*Indicates that the difference from baseline was statistically significant ($p < 0.01$).

The efficacy variables consisted of: the mean severity ratings of scale, lesion thickness, erythema, and the physician's global evaluation of the current status of disease. Ratings of scaling, erythema, and lesion thickness, and the ratings of the global assessments were made using a seven-point scale (0 = none, 1 = trace, 2 = mild, 3 = mild-moderate, 4 = moderate, 5 = moderate-severe, 6 = severe).

All efficacy variables improved significantly in a subset of 55 patients from Study A treated for a single 6-month maintenance course of therapy for a total of 12 months of treatment; a small subset of patients ($n = 6$) from Study A continued to improve after a third 6-month course of therapy (for a total of 18 months of treatment).

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Soriatene is indicated for the treatment of severe psoriasis in adults. Because of significant adverse effects associated with its use, Soriatene should be prescribed only by those knowledgeable in the use of systemic retinoids. In females of reproductive potential, Soriatene should be reserved for non-pregnant patients who are unresponsive to other therapy. Soriatene is contraindicated in pregnant women and in women who are breastfeeding. Soriatene is contraindicated in patients with severe liver disease. Soriatene is contraindicated in patients with severe renal impairment. Soriatene is contraindicated in patients with severe heart failure. Soriatene is contraindicated in patients with severe hypertension. Soriatene is contraindicated in patients with severe hypotension. Soriatene is contraindicated in patients with severe hypoxia. Soriatene is contraindicated in patients with severe hypothermia. Soriatene is contraindicated in patients with severe hypocalcemia. Soriatene is contraindicated in patients with severe hypomagnesemia. Soriatene is contraindicated in patients with severe hypokalemia. Soriatene is contraindicated in patients with severe hyponatremia. Soriatene is contraindicated in patients with severe hypophosphatemia. Soriatene is contraindicated in patients with severe hypovolemia. Soriatene is contraindicated in patients with severe hypotension. Soriatene is contraindicated in patients with severe hypoxia. Soriatene is contraindicated in patients with severe hypothermia. Soriatene is contraindicated in patients with severe hypocalcemia. Soriatene is contraindicated in patients with severe hypomagnesemia. Soriatene is contraindicated in patients with severe hypokalemia. Soriatene is contraindicated in patients with severe hyponatremia. Soriatene is contraindicated in patients with severe hypophosphatemia. Soriatene is contraindicated in patients with severe hypovolemia.

Most patients experience relapse of psoriasis after discontinuation of therapy. Subsequent relapse, when clinically indicated, has produced efficacy results similar to the initial course of therapy.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Pregnancy Category X (see boxed CONTRAINDICATIONS AND WARNINGS).

Soriatene is contraindicated in patients with severely impaired liver or kidney function and in patients with abnormal electrolyte levels (see boxed WARNINGS, Hypocalcemia, WARNINGS, Lactate and Possible Cardiovascular Effects, and PRECAUTIONS).

An increased risk of hepatitis has been reported to result from combined use of methotrexate and etretinate. Consequently, the combination of methotrexate with Soriatene is also contraindicated (see PRECAUTIONS, Drug Interactions).

Since both Soriatene and tetracycline can cause increased intracranial pressure, their combination is contraindicated (see WARNINGS, Pseudotumor Cerebri).

Soriatene is contraindicated in cases of hypersensitivity to the preparation (acitretin or excipients) or to other retinoids.

WARNINGS

(see also boxed CONTRAINDICATIONS AND WARNINGS)

Hepatotoxicity: Of the 525 patients treated in US clinical trials, 2 had clinical jaundice with elevated serum bilirubin and transaminases considered related to Soriatene treatment. Liver function test results in these patients returned to normal after Soriatene was discontinued. Two of the 1289 patients treated in European clinical trials developed biopsy-confirmed toxic hepatitis. A second biopsy in one of these patients revealed no further formation suggestive of cirrhosis. One patient in a Canadian clinical trial of 63 patients developed a three-fold increase of transaminases. A liver biopsy of this patient showed no evidence of cirrhosis, multiple hepatocyte loss and mild dilatation of the portal tracts compatible with acute reversible hepatic injury. The patient's transaminase levels returned to normal 2 weeks after Soriatene was discontinued.

The potential of Soriatene therapy to induce hepatotoxicity was prospectively evaluated using a liver biopsy in 10 patients from a 1289 patient study. Pre-treatment and post-treatment biopsies were available for 87 patients. A comparison of liver biopsy findings before and after therapy revealed 49 (56%) patients showed

Continued on next page

Albumin—Cont.

ment in the bottle. Do not begin administration more than 4 hours after the container has been entered. Discard unused portion.

PRECAUTIONS

ALBUMIN (HUMAN) U.S.P. ALBUTEN® should be administered with caution to patients with low cardiac reserve.

Rapid infusion may cause vascular overload with resultant pulmonary edema. Patients should be closely monitored for signs of increased venous pressure.

A rapid rise in blood pressure following infusion necessitates careful observation of injured or postoperative patients to detect and treat several blood vessels that may not have bled at a lower pressure.

Patients with marked dehydration require administration of isotonic fluids. **ALBUTEN®** may be administered with the usual dextrose and saline intravenous solutions. However, solutions containing protein hydrolyzates or alcohol must not be infused through the same administration set in conjunction with **ALBUTEN®** since these combinations may cause the proteins to precipitate.

Pregnancy Category C: Animal reproduction studies have not been conducted with Albumin (Human). It is also not known whether Albumin (Human) can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman or can affect reproductive capacity. Albumin (Human) should be given to a pregnant woman only if clearly needed.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Allergic or pyrogenic reactions are characterized primarily by fever and chills; rash, nausea, vomiting, tachycardia and hypotension have also been reported. Should an adverse reaction occur, slow or stop the infusion for a period of time which may result in the disappearance of the symptoms. If administration has been stopped and the patient requires additional **ALBUMIN (HUMAN) U.S.P. ALBUTEN®**, material from a different lot should be used. **ALBUTEN®**, particularly if administered rapidly, may result in vascular overload with resultant pulmonary edema.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

ALBUTEN® is administered intravenously. The total dosage will vary with the individual. In adults, an initial infusion of 100 mL is suggested. Additional amounts may be administered as clinically indicated.

In the treatment of the patient in shock with greatly reduced blood volume, **ALBUTEN®** may be administered as rapidly as necessary to restore the clinical condition and restore normal blood volume. This may be repeated in 15-30 minutes if the initial dose fails to prove adequate. In the patient with a slightly low or normal blood volume, the rate of administration should be 1 mL per minute. If dilution of **ALBUTEN® 25%** is clinically desirable, compatible diluents include sterile 0.9% Sodium Chloride solution or sterile 5% Dextrose in Water.

Pediatric Use: The pediatric use of **ALBUMIN (HUMAN) U.S.P. ALBUTEN®** has not been clinically evaluated. The dosage will vary with the clinical state and body weight of the individual. Historically, a dose one-quarter to one-half the adult dose may be administered, or dosage may be calculated on the basis of 0.5 to 1.0 gram per kilogram of body weight (2.4 to 4.4 mL of **ALBUTEN® 25%**). For jaundiced infants suffering from hemolytic disease of the newborn the appropriate dose for binding of free serum bilirubin is 1 gram per kilogram of body weight which may be administered during the procedure.* The usual rate of administration in children should be one-quarter the adult rate.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE: 100 mL and 10 mL ampoules.

When an Administration Set is Used

Flip off plastic cap on top of the vial and expose rubber stopper. Cleanse exposed rubber stopper with suitable germicidal solution, being sure to remove any excess. Observe aseptic technique and prepare sterile intravenous equipment as follows:

1. Use clamp on administration set.
2. With bottle upright, thrust piercing pin straight through stopper center. Do not twist or angle.
3. Inductively invert bottle to automatically establish proper fluid level in drip chamber (half full).
4. Attach infusion set to administration set, open clamp and allow solution to expel air from tubing and needle, then close clamp.
5. Make venipuncture and adjust flow.
6. Discard all administration equipment after use. Discard any unused contents.

When an Administration Set is Not Used

Flip off plastic cap on top of the vial and expose rubber stopper. Cleanse exposed rubber stopper with suitable germicidal solution, being sure to remove any excess. Observe aseptic technique and prepare sterile intravenous equipment as follows:

1. Using aseptic technique, attach filter needle to a sterile disposable plastic syringe.
2. Insert filter needle into **ALBUMIN (HUMAN) U.S.P. ALBUTEN® 25%** solution.
3. Aspirate **ALBUMIN (HUMAN) U.S.P. ALBUTEN® 25%** Solution from the vial into the syringe.
4. Remove and discard the filter needle from the syringe.

5. Attach desired size needle to syringe.
6. Discard all administration equipment after use. Discard any unused contents.

HOW SUPPLIED

- 1. 50 mL vial **ALBUMIN (HUMAN) U.S.P. ALBUTEN® 25% Solution**
- 2. 100 mL vial **ALBUMIN (HUMAN) U.S.P. ALBUTEN® 25% Solution**

STORAGE

ALBUTEN® is stable for three years providing storage temperature does not exceed 30 °C. Protect from freezing. For only.

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10. *Gelco Biologicals Inc.*
11. *USDA, ARS, Beltsville, MD 20705, USA*
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13. *Printed in USA*
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15. *08-6147-01*
16. *Shown in Product Identification Guide, page 317*

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A Prestige Brands, Inc.
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IRVINGTON, NY 10579

Direct inquiries to:
(914) 524-6800
<http://www.prestigebrands.com>

CLEARYES®**OTC**

DRUG FACTS

Active Ingredients

Glyceric Glycine 0.25% Lubricant

Nonfluorinated hydrocarbon 0.012% Redness reliever

USES

Relieves redness of the eye due to minor eye irritation

For use as a protectant against further irritation or dryness of the eye

For the temporary relief of burning and irritation due to wear of the eye

WARNINGS

For external use only.

Do not use if solution changes color or becomes cloudy

Ask a doctor before use if you have narrow angle glaucoma

When using this product

- to avoid contamination, do not touch tip to any surface
- replace cap after using
- overuse may produce increased redness of the eye
- pupils may become enlarged temporarily
- Stop if you feel a doctor if:
- you feel eye pain
- you experience changes in vision
- you experience continued redness or irritation of the eye
- the condition worsens or persists for more than 72 hours

Keep out of reach of children. If swallowed, get medical help or contact a Poison Control Center right away.

DIRECTIONS

Instill 1 to 2 drops in the affected eye(s) up to 4 times daily.

Other information

- store at room temperature
- remove contact lenses before using • warmer exposure. Do not use if:
- if the seal on the bottle is broken or missing
- inactive ingredients benzalkonium chloride, boric acid, edetate disodium, purified water, sodium borate

Questions? 1-877-274-1787 www.clearyes.com

Novartis Pharmaceuticals

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GLEEVEC®
(glee-gel)
(imatinib mesylate)
tablets for oral use

HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

The following prescribing information is based on official labeling as of September 2007.

These highlights do not include all the information needed to use Gleevec safely and effectively. See full prescribing information for Gleevec.

GLEEVEC (imatinib mesylate) tablets for oral use

Initial U.S. Approval: 2001

..... RECENT MAJOR CHANGES

..... Indications and Usage: Ph+ CML - Pediatrics (1.3),

Ph+ ALL (1.4), MDS/MPD (1.5), ASM (1.6), HES/CEL (1.7),

DSFP (1.8) 12/2006

..... Dosage and Administration: Ph+ CML - Pediatrics (2.2),

Ph+ ALL (2.3), MDS/MPD (2.4), ASM (2.5), HES/CEL (2.6),

DSFP (2.7) 12/2006

..... Warnings and Precautions: Severe Cognitive Host Pathology and

Leukopenia and Thrombocytopenia (5.1) 12/2006

..... INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Gleevec is a kinase inhibitor indicated for the treatment of:

• Newly diagnosed adult patients with Philadelphia chromosome positive chronic myeloid leukemia (Ph+ CML) in chronic phase. Follow up is limited to 5 years (1.1)

• Patients with Philadelphia chromosome positive chronic myeloid leukemia (Ph+ CML) in blast crisis (BC), accelerated phase (AP), or in chronic phase (CP) after failure of interferon-alpha therapy (1.2)

• Pediatric patients with Ph+ CML - Pediatrics (2.2)

• Pediatric patients with Ph+ CML in chronic phase who are newly diagnosed or whose disease has recurred after stem cell transplant or who are resistant to interferon-alpha therapy. There are no controlled trials in pediatric patients demonstrating a clinical benefit, such as improvement in disease-related symptoms or increased survival (1.3)

• Adult patients with relapsed or refractory Philadelphia chromosome positive acute lymphoblastic leukemia (Ph+ ALL) (1.4)

• Adult patients with myelodysplastic/myeloproliferative diseases (MDS/MPD) associated with PDGFR (platelet-derived growth factor receptor) gene re-arrangements (1.5)

• Adult patients with aggressive systemic mastocytosis (ASM) without the D816V-F617 mutation or with C-KIT (mutational status unknown) (1.6)

• Adult patients with hypereosinophilic syndrome (HES) and chronic eosinophilic leukemia (CEL) who have the FIP1L1-PDGFR fusion kinase (1.7)

• Adult patients with Philadelphia chromosome positive chronic myeloid leukemia (Ph+ CML) in chronic phase (CP) after failure of interferon-alpha therapy (1.2)

• Adult patients with unresectable, recurrent and/or metastatic dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans (DSFP) (1.8)

• Patients with KIT (CD117) positive unresectable and/or metastatic malignant gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST). The effectiveness of Gleevec in GIST is based on objective response rate. There are no controlled trials demonstrating the clinical benefit, such as improvement in disease-related symptoms or increased survival (1.9)

..... DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

• Adults with Ph+ CML CP (2.1): 400 mg/day

• Adults with Ph+ CML AP or BC (2.2): 600 mg/day

• Pediatrics with Ph+ CML (2.2): 340 mg/m²/day or 260 mg/m²/day

• Adults with Ph+ ALL (2.3): 600 mg/day

• Adults with MDS/MPD (2.4): 400 mg/day

• Adults with ASM (2.5): 100 mg/day or 400 mg/day

• Adults with HES/CEL (2.6): 100 mg/day or 400 mg/day

• Adults with DSFP (2.7): 800 mg/day

• Adults with GIST (2.8): 400 mg/day or 800 mg/day

• Patients with mild to moderate hepatic impairment (2.9): 400 mg/day

• Patients with severe hepatic impairment (2.9): 300 mg/day

All doses of Gleevec should be taken with a meal and a glass of water. Doses of 400 mg or 600 mg should be administered once daily, whereas a dose of 800 mg should be administered as 400 mg twice a day. Gleevec can be given in water or apple juice for patients having difficulty swallowing. Daily dosing of 800 mg and above should be accomplished using the 400 mg tablet to reduce exposure to iron.

..... DOSAGE FORM AND STRENGTHS

Tablets (scored): 100 mg and 400 mg (3)

..... CONTRAINDICATIONS

None (4)

